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THE TIMES

No 61,723 | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 1983 | 20p

THE TIMES

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Global cuts holidays by £500,000

Global Holidays has announced a reduction in its brouchure prices for 1984 of more than £500,000, with savings of £50 on many of last year's hoilday costs.

It is the latest move in the price-cutting war which has already seen the three largest tour operators reduce their prices Page 3

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An Argentine cargo vessel infringed the 150-mile Falkland Islands protection zone, on Christmas Eve, but left after being seen by RAF fighters, the Ministry of Defence said.

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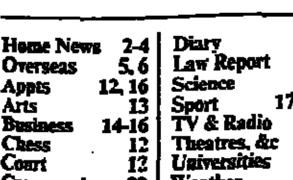
The City Takeover Panel, which supervises company bids and mergers, is to simplify its rule book, according to Mr John Hignett, the outgoing director general. Page 15

National knack

Burrough Hill Lad, a heavily-backed favourite, gave Jenny Pitman, the trainer, her second successive Welsh Grand National win at Chepstow yesterday Page 19

Botham booked

Ian Botham, the England cricket all-rounder, was booked for a foul tackle when playing football for Scunthorpe United. Page 17



Scots steel threat renewed after US deal collapses

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Proposals for a unique multi-million pound "steel swap" deal between Britain and the United States have been *abandoned*, posing a renewed threat to the survival of the Ravenscraig steelworks in Scotland.

The project, to sell Ravens craig steel slabs to United States Steel of Pennsylvania, was finally laid to rest last night in simultaneous announcements from London and New York.

Mr Robert Haslam, chairman of the British Steel Corporation said *that* the corporation *still* wanted to phase out one of its three strip mills – the other two are at Port Talbot and Llanwern in South Wales. "We are not saying that Ravenscraig is eventually the works that will close, but its long-term future is in doubt."

Ravenscraig employs about 4,000 workers of whom about half work in the strip mill. Their future would be resolved in *talks with the Government* soon.

Mr Haslam added that the joint project had been a brave concept and if it had been pulled off "it would have ensured more jobs being retained in British Steel".

British Steel, which is losing about £2.5m a week, and has ruled out reaching break-even in 1983-84, hoped the joint venture would help it back to profitability.

The plan was to smelt Australian iron ore at Ravenscraig into steel slabs for United States Steel's loss-making Fairless works in Pennsylvania. British Steel was to have invested a huge sum, initially $600m (£400m), into United States Steel to finance modernization of outdated American works and in return would have secured markets for the Ravenscraig output.

But last night's statement said that terms mutually beneficial to both companies could not be concluded. It was agreed *to end discussions so that other* options available to both could be pursued. One option would be for British Steel to supply slab to US Steel on a normal commercial contract basis.

Mr Haslam said the discussions had represented an *attempt by the two corporations* to find solutions to serious problems which could not be ignored. "It is important that the implications of the outcome should not be misunderstood by anyone. In the case of British Steel, the problem remains of *wide strip capacity, surplus* to foreseeable market requirement. Faced with the pressing need to end its present losses, BSC will have to examine all other options."

The joint venture proposal *was the brainchild* of the previous BSC chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, and Mr David Roderick, chairman of US steel. Mr Haslam, who took over at British Steel in September, said last night that the gap between the two companies had widened: "US steel have steadily increased their asking price, while we wanted to pull back from our original position."

The venture has been opposed on both sides of the Atlantic by trade union and political leaders and church men, but Mr Haslam said: "Opponents should not regard it as a victory or draw solace from it because the basic underlying problems still remain. It removes some uncertainty and we can now proceed to bring our corporation into line with our view of *the market*."

Mr Haslam refused to be drawn on which of the strip mills would be affected. The corporation is ocmmitted to a £170m modernization at Port Talbot, which appears to have the most secure future.

On the question of redundancies, Mr Haslam said the corporation had gone through a

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American plants face closure

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US steel industry faced a further round of heavy job losses yesterday as directors of the giant US Steel Corporation met to vote on the closure of as many as six outmoded plants.

The $1bn retrenchment would be the biggest since 1979, when America's largest steelmaker closed 13 plants and laid off a huge workforce employed in smaller towns which have still not recovered from the closures.

The decision to consider more large scale closures came after the United Steelworkers' Union refused the company's demands for big new wage concessions. US Steel warned union leaders that it would have no choice but to close plants in Illinois, Alabama, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

By cutting capacity sharply, US Steel apparently hopes to lower its break-even point from 70 per cent to 50 per cent of capacity in an effort to achieve what many believe to be an impossible dream – a profit in steel next year.

Because of a combination of factors such as world overproduction of steel, the recession and inefficient plants, US Steel has not made a profit in any quarter since 1981. It has experienced pretax operating losses of £1.35bn over the last seven quarters.

The plight of US Steel and other large American steel companies has led to renewed calls for tighter limits on imports from Europe, Japan and the Third World. These demands are likely to swell in the coming election year, because of the large lay-offs and an intense campaign by the steel industry.

The Reagan Administration has also been trying to reduce the competition from low-cost Third World steel producers by pressing its allies in the industrialized world to reduce their subsidies for construction of steel mills in less developed nations. But despite a strong American diplomatic effort Japan and Austria have opposed the plan and the British Government does not support it.

Rajiv fitted for the Gandhi mantle

From Michael Hamlyn
Calcutta

Mrs Indira Gandhi swept into the Bengali capital yesterday to preside over the first plenary session of her party since 1972. The 8,000 or so delegates, mostly clad in traditional white dhoti and Nehru jacket topped with a Gandhi cap, appear, however, to be attending a service of consecration for her son Rajiv.

Rajiv Gandhi was a simple airline pilot with a nice Italian wife until the death of his brother Sanjay. The he too donned the white homespun uniform of a Congress politician and became his mother's closest adviser.

Since posts in the party have ceased to be elective, she nominated him as General *Secretary and leader of the* youth wing of the party. Now, apparently, the time has come to anoint him officially as the apparent heir.

Rajiv's presence is dominating the city. True, there are posters showing Mrs Gandhi herself 12ft tall with hand upraised in a Roman imperial salute, and a slogan such as "Leader of Leaders: Champion of World Peace". But there are almost as many – smaller – posters of Rajiv, labelled: "Today's Leader: Tomorrow's Hope".

As you get closer to the conference hall the posters of Rajiv become more and more dense. Just outside the driveway is a triumphal gateway, draped in orange green and white, the colours of both India and the Congress Party, bearing the *legend in foot* high letters "Hope is Youth: Youth is Future" on the left, and "Long Live Rajiv Gandhi" on the right.

Just outside the hall his face, 8ft high, with two and a half feet of blue-chinned jowl, peers at *the* assembling congressmen from under a Gandhi cap like theirs. Inside the hall the previous leaders of the Indian National Congress are commemorated with plaster portrait panels hung on the balcony. The plaques begin with a commemoration of A O Hume, the Englishman who first conceived the Congress Party, and then run through the Bannerjees and Nehrus who presided over it. The last plaque says simply: "Long Live Rajiv Gandhi".

The meeting is unusual in a number of other ways. Previous party conferences have been



Indian dynasty: Rajiv Gandhi and his mother.

held after elections to party office, and debates in the conference held to influence party policy and win reelection for the delegates from their constituents. Without elections the delegates have a constitu*ency of only one or perhaps two* persons to please – Mrs Gandhi and son. Disagreement with her policies is therefore unlikely.

Instead of the conference being an opportunity for the hierarchs to hear of the feelings of the grass roots workers, it is likely *to be much more of a* preelection rally than a traditional party conference.

The general election must come within the next 12 months and the series of party meetings which began with the Congress Committee meeting in Bombay *a few months ago* is being used to prepare the activists for the struggle to come.

This is the first Congress conference since independence that has been held in a state not controlled by Congress. The Communist Party (Marxist) *which dominates the left front* coalition running West Bengal has, however, done its best to make sure that everything goes smoothly.

The plenary session is also the first of a series of events commemorating the centenary *of the founding of the Indian* National Congress. Its inaugural meeting actually took place in Bombay on December 28, 1885. But this represented an amalgamation or other bodies and other meetings, the first of which was the national conference *held in Calcutta* 100 years ago today.

Thatcher to keep on course

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Government's determination to hold firm to its present economic course in the pursuit of rewards in the next decade is expected to be the keynote theme of the Prime Minister's new year message to her party at the weekend.

After what ministers concede has been a surprisingly difficult few months – given the size of the Conservative Party's general election victory last June – Mrs Margaret Thatcher will tell the Tory faithful that the tough policies pursued by the Government since 1979 are improving the industrial and economic climate, and that the sacrifices which have been made should *not be wasted*.

Her message of guarded optimism is unlikely to contain any specific promise about a reduction in unemployment, but the general theme will be that if Britain sticks to its steady path the benefits for the country in the late 1980s could be great.

At the same time Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, in his new year message will be emphazing the crucial importance to the party of next year's European parliamentary elections and the local elections in May, which he regards as a significant electoral test.

The Labour leader believes that the party's improved showing in the polls since he

Continued on back page, col 1

Face to face: The Pope talking in jail yesterday to Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who is serving a life sentence for trying to kill him two years ago.

The Pope blesses assailant in jail

By Our Foreign Staff

Mehmet Ali Agca went down on his knees yesterday in repentance before the Pope, the man he once tried to kill, and received forgiveness and a papal embrace.

The Pope saw him privately in his cell for 20 minutes during a tour of Rabibbia jail in Rome. Agca is serving part of his life sentence there for shooting the Pope on May 13, 1981.

He paced the bare cell waiting for the Pope to arrive and when he entered Agca bent and kissed his ring.

Agca, unshaven and wearing blue jeans and a blue crew-neck sweater appeared tense but the Pope put him at ease.

"So this is where you stay", the Pope said in Italian.

"Yes", Agca replied with a smile.

"How do you feel, do you feel all right?" the Pope, who wore a white cassock, asked him.

He answered "yes". The two men then sat down knee to knee on plastic chairs placed close together before the cell's radiator.

They whispered into each other's ears. Both men often held their heads in their hands and the Pope took Agca's hands in his several times.

The meeting had a sombre, confessional atmosphere, with the Pope often bringing his head close to Agca's lips to hear him. Agca once wiped his eyes.

Before they parted, Agca knelt before the Pope and *kissed* his hands, one *still* marked by a bullet wound from his gun.

The Pope wished him Happy New Year and gave him a silver and mother-of-pearl rosary.

***"Grazie, Grazie,"* "Thank you, Thank you," Agca replied.**

Afterwards the Pope said: "I spoke as to a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." But he would not say what they had talked about. "That is a secret that must remain between me and him", he *said*.

"I also believe that the meeting today is providential. It was not planned or programmed, but it took place. And the Lord gave us the grace to be able to meet each other as men and as brothers."

Later, talking to women prisoners at the jail, he elaborated his theme: Providence had intervened in an "extraordinary and also wonderful way in that today after two years, I'm able to meet my assailant and repeat the pardon that I expressed immediately toward him and was later to declare publicly when I was able from the hospital".

The 20-minute encounter caused outrage in Turkey where Agca has been condemned to death for murdering a newpaper editor.

Reagan accepts blame for 241 Beirut bomb deaths

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan, speaking in his capacity as Commander-*in-Chief of the US Armed Forces*, said yesterday that he took full blame for the deaths of 241 American servicemen in the terrorist bombing of the American Marines headquarters in Beirut on October 23.

Saying that American troops were not properly equipped to deal with the "new phenomenon of state-supported terrorism", he made clear that the officers commanding the Marine contingent at the time would not be court-martialled because of inadequate security arrangements at the compound.

"I do not believe .... that the local commanders on the ground – men who have already suffered quite enough – should be punished for not fully comprehending the nature of today's terrorist threat," the President said.

"If there is to be blame it properly rests here in this office and with this President. And I *accept responsibility for the bad* as well as the good."

The President delayed his departure for a week's holdiday in California by half an hour to make a special statement in advance of publication of the Pentagon's report on the Beirut *bombing*.

The report, said to be extremely critical of security arrangements at the Marine headquarters, was to have been released at the end of last week, but was delayed at the last moment because of divisions within the Administration over how to present it. It is now expected to released later this week, with some deletions.

Mr Reagan said he had read the Pentagon report, prepared by a commission headed by retired Admiral Robert Long, and "wholeheartedly agreed" with its conclusion that American forces were by tradition and training inadequately equipped *to deal with terrorists*.

The main thrust of his statement was the need for the US and other Western democracies to develop a new approach to the problem.

For terrorists to be curbed "civilized countries must begin a new effort to work together, to share intelligence, to improve our training and security of our forces, to deny a haven or legal protection for terrorist groups. And most important of all to hold increasingly accountable those countries which sponsor *terrorism and terrorist activity* around the world".

● **BEIRUT:** Two British soldiers with the multinational force suffered slight injuries yesterday when an explosive device went off as their Ferret scout car drove by. (Our Correspondent writes).

Kremlin power vacuum worries President

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

In an end-of-year assessment of US-Soviet relations, President Reagan has expressed concern about the problems of dealing with the Kremlin under the ailing President Andropov and a new tendency by military leaders to make warlike statements without obtaining authorization from the political leadership.

However, in an interview with *Time* magazine, he said there was less danger of a war between the superpowers than *when he took office*.

The interview was noteworthy for its conciliatory tone and the moderate view of the Soviet Union expressed by Mr Reagan. Asked if he would repeat a remark he had previously made about Russia being the "focus of evil", he replied: "No, I would not say things like that again, even after some of the things that have been done recently".

He explained that he had used tough language *to* "show them how we felt, what our views were and why he thought it necessary to build up our military defence ....

"What more of an international superpower they *could* be if it was not just in the military that they were super, but if they could join the family of nations as trading partners, working together, as all of us are, for the improvement of their own people's standard of *living*."

The President did not refer directly to the illness which has kept President Andropov out of the public eye for four months, but admitted that the US had a "lack of information about where he stands. It isn't like *dealing with Brezhnev after* years in the Kremlin. You knew where he was and felt you knew how to reach him."

Andropov analysis, page 6

Bargain-hunters out in force

By Tony Samstag and John Witherow

Thousands of bargain-hunters, undeterred by the fear of further bombings, carried on shopping almost as usual in central London yesterday, the first day of the post-Christmas sales.

If the Harrods bombing of December 17, which killed six, and the small explosion opposite Selfridges on Christmas night had been intended to disrupt, they had clearly failed.

***The police said that* they *had* located dozens of suspicious packages and there had been one controlled explosion in Baker Street of a parcel. It had not been a bomb.**

Parking restrictions had remained in force, unlike *normal bank holidays*, and about 50 cars had been towed away for illegal parking in the area of the sales.

Scotland Yard said that its appeal for people to travel by public transport had been *partially effective* and there had been fewer cars than normal at the start of the sales.

After the Harrods bomb blast, the Home Office announced that an extra 700 policeman were being assigned to central London and there were large numbers of uniformed and plainclothes policemen on duty yesterday.

Despite an unusually low start, which department store spokesmen unanimously attributed to curtailed London Transport services and parking *restrictions*, by mid-morning business was booming.

Crowds milled along Oxford Street, with many eating and drinking al fresco in the unseasonably mild weather.

Liberty thought that there were *fewer people this year, but* they were more determined. Casual shoppers might have stayed at home, but "those with their eye on something" were out in force (Sales guide, back page).

● Police Constable John Gordon, who lost a leg in the Harrods explosion, was still in "critical but stable" condition at Westminster Hospital yesterday. Police Sergeant Christopher Stanger and Police Sergeant Andrew Melham, who were also injured were both said to be making good progress.

Scargill leads move to replace unions' political finance body

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Political warfare has broken out within Trade Unions for Labour Victory, the umbrella body formed to channel cash to the Labour Party to fight general and local elections.

The National Union of Mineworkers has invited "interested persons and organizations" to quit the TULV and join a rival concern dedicated to the left-wing 1983 election manifesto and Labour Party conference decisions.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, said last night: "I stand by the union's position on TULV". This is contained in a three-page confidential circular to other militant unions warning them that the fund-raising body "is bringing financial and political pressure to bear on the Labour Party to amend policy".

His hardline initiative has been condemned by union moderates as "clearly intended to be highly divisive", but Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, has also asked the miners: "Do we smell a witch-hunt here?"

Mr David Basnett, chairman of the TULV and general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilmakers and Allied Trade Union, has asked for a meeting with the mineworkers' national executive to discuss the breakaway move, which could cause the five-year-old organization to founder.

So far, the miners have not replied, although the NUM circular makes specific charges despite denials, that Trade Unions for Labour Victory is a policy-making body.

The Scargill letter claims that TULV leaders met in the House of Commons to ensure that there was no contested election for the leader-deputy leader of the Labour Party in election year.

They had also met Mr James Mortimer, general secretary of the party, to tell him that there should be no increase in trade union affiliation fees and "as a result no motion was discussed on trade union contribution at this year's conference, it is claimed.

The miners further allege: "The TULV is an alternative service of funding for the Labour Party, and as such can determine how to grant money to the party and on what terms. This power over the purse strings has frequently led to discussions between the TULV and Mr Mortimer on matters of policy."

All these charges are hotly denied in a circular prepared by the TULV executive which is being sent to constituent unions. It insists that there has been no coordination of votes about the party leadership and describes as "totally false" the allegation that the unions' power over the purse strings has led to policy talks with party officials.

The NUM document discloses that the miners' executive has "decided to authorize the national officials to conduct discussions with other interested parties and organizations to provide the necessary machinery whereby the role of the TULV may be superfluous, and unity can be sought on the basis of the 1983 manifesto and Labour Party conference decisions".

The miners' initiative is so far falling on stony ground. Moderates who dominate the TULV executive committee say that the creation of a rival organization would be "extremely unhelpful at a time when the party is being reestablished, and when the TULV has preserved trade union unity throughout the past four years".

It seems certain, however, that Mr Scargill will continue sniping at the unions' political cash organization, which has already suffered the defection of the right-wing Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers on grounds embarrassingly similar to the charges made by the NUM.

The Scargill papers disclose that the TULV received an income from affiliated unions of £235,000 in 1981-82 and £306,000 in 1982-83. Its cash flow in the half-year to August 31, this year, was £450,000, and the TULV has lent £250,000 to the Labour Party.

The mineworkers have until recently had observer status within the TULV, and received relevant documents from it, but even that connexion has been severed in the wake of NUM allegations that regional TULV bodies have "actively campaigned against the selection of certain candidates and elsewhere have used their financial clout to influence regional parties". Those charges are also denied.

This internal conflict is bound to embarrass Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who wants an end to fratricidal activity within the party.



Antagonists: Mr Scargill (left) and Mr Mostyn Evans, who suspects a witch-hunt by the miners.

Early risers: Snow drops (*Galanthus Caucasicus*) flowering in the rock garden at Kew Gardens, west London, yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Labour may seek safeguard for Reuters

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

The Labour Party is to press for an examination by Parliament of the decision by directors of Reuters, the international news agency and financial information service, to float the company on the stock market next year.

One proposal being discussed within the party is that Reuters should be turned into a statutory corporation like the BBC to safeguard it against the risk of falling into undesirable or foreign hands.

The decision by Reuters on December 14 to seek a listing for its shares on the Stock Exchange came after lengthy arguments among the board members and opposition from Labour MPs, led by Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister.

The company is thought to have a market value of more than £1,000m, and a flotation would bring big gains to Fleet Street newspaper groups, provincial newspapers, and newspapers in New Zealand and Australia.

Under the terms of the Reuters Trust agreement, the trustees are responsible for ensuring that it does not pass into the hands of any single interest or group, and that its integrity and freedom from bias are preserved.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, when questioned in the Commons last month, said that he had no responsibility to intervene.

Mr Bryan Gould, a Labour frontbench spokesman on trade and industry, said yesterday: "Now that the flotation may take place in the early months of 1984 it is important that Parliament should look at the issue urgently".

He said that the trust which had been formed to safeguard Reuters came about mainly as a result of parliamentary pressure. "Now we are told that the trust can be broken

"This was regarded as a matter of extreme urgency in 1941. It is just as important now. That is why we may have to consider statutory protection for Reuters providing a framework similar to that provided for the BBC."

Mr Gould also called for a Commons debate on the concentration of ownership in the national and provincial press. "This concentration has shown that the various Acts to prevent monopolies and create conditions of fair trading are totally useless", he said.

Anger over TV film on bombing

From Our Correspondent Llandudno

An MEP is protesting to the BBC about a programme about John Jenkins, a former army sergeant who was jailed for 10 years for his part in the bombing campaign before the investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969.

The programme, *The Extremists*, is to be shown on BBC Wales tomorrow night, but Miss Beata Brookes, Conservative European MP for North Wales, said yesterday: "I think it is appalling that just after the Harrods carnage a film like this should be shown.

"This man Jenkins decries the Royal Family, there is talk of a threat to blow them up, and claims that an assassination squad existed. It is quite vicious stuff.

"If the BBC thought it right to apologize for playing *The Mountains of Mourne* the day after the Harrods bombing, it should show equal sensitivity and take off this film."

The dramatized documentary, which is an hour and a half long, was made with Jenkins's cooperation after his release from prison. He is now serving two years at Dartmoor for hindering the arrest of a wanted man.

The BBC said yesterday: "*The Extremists* is a programme which has been completed for some time but we were unable to show it because of the conspiracy trial in Cardiff and other events.

"Although it is a play based on real events which happened in Wales, they are events which occurred a decade and a half ago. Unfortunately, terrorist activities appear to be still with us but there is no connexion between events portrayed in the film and the recent tragedy in London. Indeed the film does serve as a warning of the consequences of such activities."

TUC wants action on tax evaders

By Our Labour Editor

The Goverment is accused today of being more zealous in prosecuting poor social security scroungers than rich tax dodgers.

In a report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the TUC demands tougher action against all forms of tax evasion, including publication of the names of defaulters operating in the "black economy" thought to be worth £6,500m a year.

Union leaders involved in tax administration say in a 4,000-word document that many people on low incomes are having to pay excessive tax because of evasion by the better-off.

"No other EEC country taxes its low-income citizens so heavily. There has also been a dramatic increase in the number people depending on means-tested benefits, with 6.5 million people now claiming supplementary benefit."

But tax evasion and avoidance have continued to grow, the TUC argues, and "there is a popular view that the black economy represents a dynamic and innovatory sector of the economy as a whole.

"The Government's approach to the black economy is inequitable when compared with its attitude towards other types of fraudulent activity", the paper says.

"There is a much higher rate of prosecution of people defrauding the social security system, despite the smaller sums of money involved. The Government does not appear to be as zealous in tracking down those well-off individuals who evade tax and their obligations to the community."

The TUC points out that the staff of the Inland Revenue is to be cut by 9.9 per cent over the next four years, risking "serious damage" to revenue collection. The unions concede that ministers have given "belated attention" to increasing staff in the offices tracking down defaulters, but argue that there are still insufficient resources.

Quoting the Keith committee report on tax reform, the TUC says that is being "penny-wise, pound foolish" because these investigators generally yield returns of four to five times the cost of their salaries.

RAF saves sheep from flood

An RAF helicopter rescued two estate workers and 18 sheep stranded by a flash flood at Loch Maree in Wester Ross yesterday.

Mr Archie MacLellan, an estate manager, and his son-in-law, Mr David Price, were trying to reach the sheep in a small boat, but their engine failed. The Lossiemouth helicopter picked up the two men, then took them to the animals, which were loaded into a net slung under the helicopter and rescued in two flights.

Flooding blocked three main roads yesterday with the Highlands the worst affected by rain and high winds.

On the A82 Inverness to Fort William road, two landslides blocked the route at Letterfinlay and Part of the road surface was swept away. Flooding and subsidence also blocked the Locharron road and the Kyle road and serious floods were reported at the Loch Ness village of Fort Augustus.

But in North Wales, the weather was so mild that people sat in the sunshine on the sea front at Colwyn Bay.

Forecast, back page

Prisoners protest over parole

Two prisoners are staging a rooftop protest at Long Lartin maximum security prison near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester. They climbed up on Monday with the help of other prisoners, and are huddled in a crude shelter on top of a water tower.

The men, Mark Leech, aged 26, who has served a year of a five-year sentence for theft and wounding with intent, and Stephen Robson, aged 25, jailed for nine years last June for robbery and possessing a firearm, are protesting at the Home Secretary's decision not to give parole to prisoners serving long sentences for violence.

● Two prisoners who escaped from Stafford jail late on Monday, were recaptured in Madeley, Staffordshire, yesterday. Terry Kirk, aged 38, and Keith Lane, aged 19, had used sheets knotted together to scale the perimeter wall.

Kirk has served six months of a 57-month prison sentence for incest, burglary, and possessing a firearm. Lane had served three months of a two-year sentence for burglary.

Tories urge review of obscenity law

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is coming under fresh pressure from Conservative MPs to review the operation of the Obscene Publications Act.

MPs are complaining that the present obscenity law is resulting in insufficient convictions and is easy to evade.

It is pointed out that a situation has arisen in which, although the Government has given councils powers to close sex shops under local planning powers, equally offensive material can be bought over the counter at other shops in some areas.

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, said yesterday: "The Obscene Publications Act needs desperately to be reviewed. The definition of what is obscene needs to be more flexible because at present juries have to decide whether material is likely to deprave or corrupt, and that is the sticking point."

MPs plan to raise the issue at private meetings with Mr Brittan

Churches' plea on oil rig

The Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland appealed yesterday to British Shipbuilders and Britoil to avert the loss of more than 4,000 jobs at Scott Lithgow.

The Lower Clydeside yard faces closure because of Britoil's cancellation of an £86m oil rig order.

The churches, in a joint statement, said: "For the sake of many thousands of people in the west of Scotland, we earnestly request you to discuss urgently terms for the resumption of building exploration rig contract 3002 at Scott Lithgow's".

Britoil cancelled the order last week. The rig should have been delivered next spring, but it is estimated to be up to 500 days behind schedule. British Shipbuilders said afterwards that it could not afford penalty payments

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SAS increases checks on potential trouble spots

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Forces of the Army's Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) and the Royal Marines' Special Boat Squadron have increased their activities of surveying possible trouble areas around the world.

It is one of their long-standing tasks to be acquainted with areas where they could become involved militarily. That means being aware of the location of possible parachute or aircraft landing sites, checking which beaches are suitable for amphibious landings, and knowing the location of politically sensitive buildings.

It is believed that the level of activity has been increased because of fears that many Commonwealth islands have so little defensive capability that they could be seized.

The kind of event which caused anxiety is thought to have been evidence of plans by mercenary groups to organize coups d'etat in the Seychelles. In 1981, there were reports that the SAS had been active in support of the Government of Sir Dawda Jawara, President of Gambia, after an attempted coup.

More than 1,200 search for Tidey kidnappers

More than 1,200 police and troops were drafted into Derrada wood, outside Ballinamore in co Leitrim, yesterday in a final search for the kidnappers of Mr Don Tidey, aged 49, the chainstore executive.

While police chiefs are conceding that the IRA kidnap squad has eluded the biggest security operation mounted in the Irish Republic, officers still believe that there might be vital forensic science evidence to be found.

Fingerprint experts were examining beer cans and tins of food found in the underground dugout where Mr Tidey was held captive for 23 days. He was freed in a gunbattle 12 days ago in which a soldier and a police trainee died.

A police spokesman said last night: "We cannot afford to leave any stone unturned. Forensic science evidence could be vital in identifying the gang."

Meanwhile, Dr Garret FitzGerald, Prime Minister of the republic, is preparing for a Cabinet meeting next week at which overall security will be reviewed.

In the past two months, Dominic McGlinchey, the INLA terrorist leader, has evaded capture three times

Moscow leads world shipping

By Michael Baily Transport Editor

The Soviet Union has overtaken both Britain and the United States as a merchant Shipping power on the world's oceans for the first time.

While Britain's fleet has been steadily declining since the mid-1970s the Soviet Union's has been forging ahead and the latest figures from Lloyd's Register of Shipping show 25 million tonnes under the Soviet flag, 19 million under the British and 19 million under the United States.

Ten years ago Britain had nearly twice as much merchant shipping as the Soviet Union – more than 30 million tonnes against 1 million – and two years ago Britain was still ahead with 25 million tonnes against the Soviet Union's 23 million.

But as the world shipping slump and low-cost competition from the East continue to take their toll, Britain's fleet has shrunk and it is expected to continue to do so for some years yet.

By 1990 the 1970s position could be reversed, with the Soviet Union operating a merchant fleet twice the size of the British: 30 million tonnes against 15 million.

Serious concern has been expressed by both shipping and defence chiefs over the growth of Soviet shipping at the expense of western shipping in recent years.

The Soviet Union claims its shipping expension is modest, and geared to the growth in its own overseas trade and that of its friends.

But western experts point out that Soviet merchant ships are, in fact, auxiliaries to the Soviet Navy, with regular military training for merchant ship officers, and an important role in parts of the world where the Soviet Union is seen by the West as engaged in subversive activity – Africa, for example.

With low-cost crews and the full backing of the Soviet state, Russian ships can also create havoc in free worldshipping trades by offering rates western ships cannot refuse and western shipowners cannot match.

The General Council of British Shipping said yesterday: "The Soviet fleet continues to increase much faster than Russia's foreign trade. As a result, most of the expansion has been between third countries.

Frigates cost £80m to refit

By Our Defence Correspondent

It is now costing £80m to modernise a Royal Navy frigate. This is only £20m less than the price at which the navy is hoping to build the first of its entirely new class of Type 23 frigate.

Facts given by Mr John Lee, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Defence Procurement, in a written answer in the Commons, show that the cost of a mid-life refit of a Leander class frigate has risen from about £30m for ships which completed their refit in 1980 to about £80m each for HMS Hermione and HMS Scylla which began their modernization programmes in that year, and complete them this month and in mid-1985 respectively.

This huge cost escalation adds point to the decision announced in June 1981 by Sir John Nott, then Defence Secretary, to end the practice of mid-life modernization. At that time he put the cost at £70m per ship.

Graham sermon

The Queen has invited Dr Billy Graham, the US evangelist, to preach at Sandringham parish church on January 15, during the Royal Family's new year holiday on the estate. At least 10,000 people are expected to hear his sermon relayed by loudspeakers.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 28; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 150; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.25; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $6.50; Spain Pes 150; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.50; Yugoslavia Din 100

Scottish house prices 'set to rise'

House prices in Scotland are set to rise by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent in the next three months, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said today.

But it gives a warning that there will be no prices boom without a lasting upturn in the economy.

In its quarterly market report published today, Scottish estate agents predict a repeat of last year's rise in home purchases with buyers out in force before the new year holiday ends.

Estate agents say that building societies have plenty of funds and, although the prospect of a mortgage rate cut has been deferred, it has not been abandoned.

But last year's increase concealed wide fluctuations between areas and house types, with some properties increasing by 20 per cent or more but others remaining static.

Agents throughout Scotland report that high-priced executive homes are taking longer to sell.

In Aberdeen, one agent estimates that larger town houses have risen by 15 per cent during the year to between £80,000 and £100,000.

In Glasgow, pre-war bungalows have been in high demand.

US-British steel deal collapses

Continued from page 1

period of high retrenchment, further job losses could not be ruled out, but not the "heavy redundancy programme we have seen in the past".

Mr Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said later it was "absolute nonsense" to suggest that Britain could do without one of its three integrated strip mills. Ravenscraig had been making profits in the last four months. "If Britain is going to pull out of this recession we shall need all three more quickly."

● Mr Clive Lewis, Scottish divisional organizer of the ISTC, said: "We are glad the deal is off. We never thought it was a starter. It did not make commercial, financial or industrial sense – and so it has proved to be" (Our Labour Editor writes).

The unions had argued that closure of the steel making capacity at Ravenscraig would halve the 4,000 direct workforce at the plant and make another 5,000 people in supplier firms redundant.

Mr Lewis added: "If MacGregor had still been there, I would have anticipated a fit of pique. But this guy Haslam will not respond in that way. He is much more realistic. Nor do I expect a U-turn on the part of Norman Tebbit [the Secretary of State for Industry].

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Global takes more than £500,000 off 1984 holiday prices

By Robin Young

At the outset of the peak booking season for summer holidays, Global Holidays announced yesterday that it was reducing its brochure prices for next year by a total of more than £500,000. It has reprinted its brochure, with lower prices for holidays at 83 hotels in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Greece.

The biggest saving offered is more than £100 a person for two weeks at a hotel in Majorca, but many holidays will be about £50 cheaper than last year's prices.

That is the latest move in a price-cutting war that began at the end of November when Thomson Holidays, the market leader, announced cuts of up to £56, an average of 10 per cent, on 750,000 of its one million foreign summer holidays for sale.

Intasun, the second largest company, delayed launching its brochure until December, and then announced an average of 9 per cent reductions on 500,000 holidays. Horizon, the third largest operator, followed suit.

Global has not previously revised its published brochure, but this year it restricted the initial print order in expectation of having to respond to price cuts announced by larger competitors.

Mr Roger Corkhill, managing director of Global, had accused Thomson's of provoking a price war in the battle for holiday bookings. Yesterday, he said that the strength of the pound against Mediterranean currencies had helped to reduce prices, but that most of the difference would have to come out of profit margins. Global, which is the country's tenth biggest tour operator, hope to sell 250,000 holidays this summer.

As with previously announced price revisions, holidaymakers who have already made their bookings will also benefit from the price reductions.

The travel industry is now fully committed to selling more than eight million foreign holidays this year, well up on previous totals.

Mr Richard Gabber, managing director of Pickfords Travel, which sells more Global Holidays than any other travel agents, said yesterday that overall bookings for foreign holidays next summer are up by a fifth on the same stage last year.

The late launch of the Intasun brochure caused a dip in sales in November, but in the four weeks before Christmas sales were almost half as many again as in the equivalent period last year.

"In the pattern of trade that has evolved this year", Mr Gabber said, "customers can book early in the knowledge that their chosen holiday can only get cheaper if there are further price cuts. This is a complete reversal on previous years when people were tempted to book early by low prices, and then companies levied surcharges to meet their costs. This has to be good news for everybody."

One large operator not to have revised its brochure prices is Cosmos, the fourth largest. Cosmos lost some of its share of the market last summer, but is felt to have produced a competitively priced brochure at the first attempt this year, offering many holidays in Italy and Spain where currency weaknesses bring the strongest price advantages.

A spokesman for Thomson said yesterday that the company would have sold 300,000 holidays by the end of this month, 50 per cent up on last year. "We expect the industry as a whole to sell a million extra foreign holidays this year. The fact that holidays are cheaper is substantially due to stable fuel costs and the comparative strength of the pound.

"We expect our own bookings to be a quarter up on last year."

MP fears slide to random breath tests

By a Staff Reporter

A Conservative MP complained yesterday that the police had been "hounding" motorists during the Christmas holiday with unjustified breath tests.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, said that he would ask the Government for the number of breath tests conducted by all police forces and for an assurance that they were not quietly moving towards random tests.

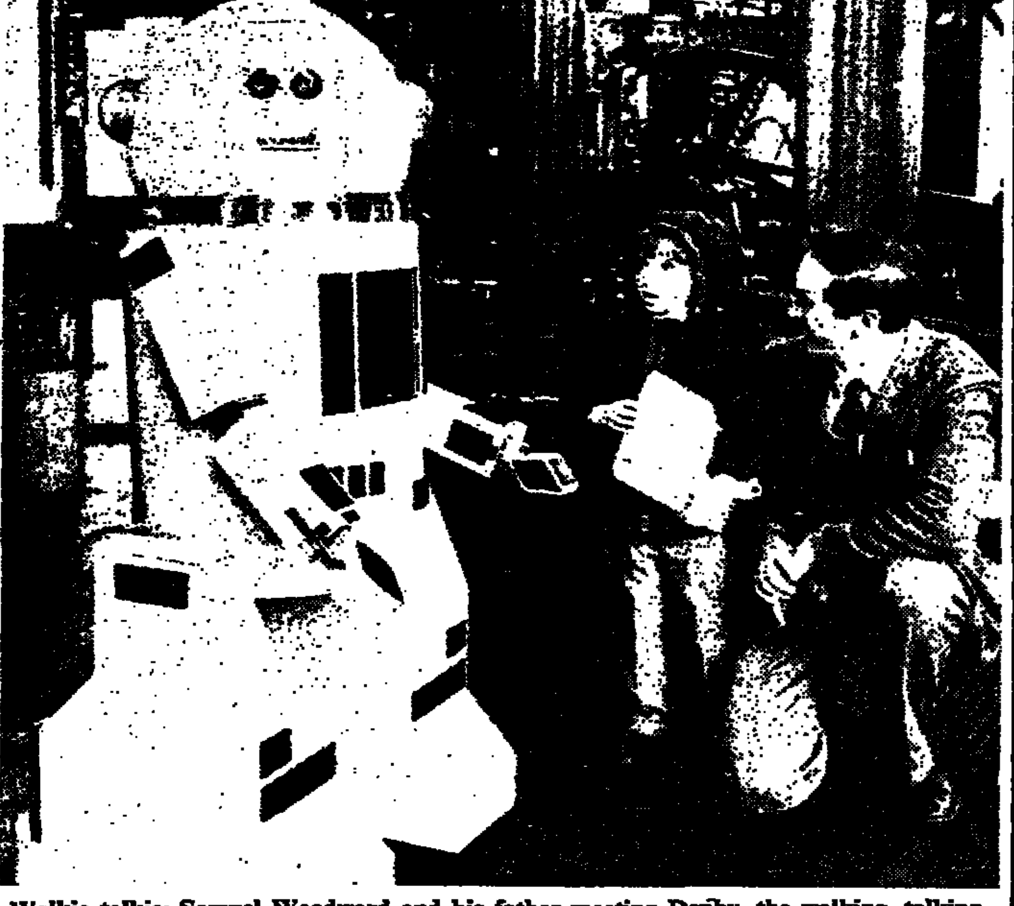
Parliament had rejected random tests, but some forces seemed to use pretexts unconnected with suspicion of drunken driving to stop motorists and test them. "I have a horrid suspicion that the police are enforcing their own law instead of Parliament's law", Mr Beaumont-Dark said.

"I am not in favour of people drinking and driving, but I think we have been in a state this Christmas when most motorists have felt like hiding behind a hedge when a police car has come along."

Two people died and 16 were seriously injured in road accidents in Nottinghamshire during the Christmas holiday compared with four and 26 this time last year. Last year 1,700 breath tests were conducted in the county and 54 proved positive. This year there were 2,500 of which 46 were positive.

● The number of drivers who gave positive breath tests in Strathclyde region over the four days of the Christmas holidays almost doubled on last year's figures. A total of 88 drivers, of 130 tested, were found to be driving over the legal limit between December 23 and 26, compared with 49 positive last year.

Lothian and Borders police recorded 11 positive breath tests between December 24 and 26, compared with 28 positive tests last year. Tayside police recorded 11 positive tests compared with 20.



Walkie talkie: Samuel Woodward and his father meeting Denby, the walking, talking robot at the British Engineerium in Hove, East Sussex, yesterday. Denby was part of the welcoming party at the museum's "in-steam" exhibition, which runs all this week (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Middle classes pawning videos

By Craig Seton

The Christmas shopping boom is over, the January sales are about to begin, and Mr Philip Murphy, a pawnbroker, awaits the customers who make his business worth while: the middle class people who have succumbed to the easy money of the credit card.

In the next few weeks they will bring to his new pawn shop in Bristol the home computers and video recorders they could not really afford, but which "plastic money" has unfortunately made possible.

Mr Murphy, aged 46, is an old hand at the business, but he believes that over the next few years the credit card will deliver to him a growing band of customers from the middle classes which rarely used pawnbrokers in the past.

Mr Murphy's Bristol shop is his first, but he plans to open more in Oxford, Exeter, Plymouth and other cities. In the three weeks since he opened, he has pledged about £13,000 against goods brought to his Bristol shop. He expects his business to be worth £200,000 in a full year and is aiming for a £1m annual turnover when he opens his other shops.

He said that the very rich and the very poor had always been good customers of the pawn broker, but never the thrifty and conservative and middle classes. Now the credit card had changed all that. Products such as video recorders and home computers have encouraged them to overstretch themselves and when other sources of credit were exhausted they started to pawn their possessions.

Waldorf detective back in uniform

By John Witherow

One of the detectives who shot and wounded Steven Waldorf in mistake for the fugitive gunman David Martin is being transferred to uniformed duty.

Det Constable Peter Finch, aged 38, who was cleared at the Central Criminal Court of attempted murder, is to be transferred next month after spending almost a year on full pay.

It is unusual for a policeman to be transferred from detective to uniformed work.

The decision was said to have been taken after senior police officers became concerned at the pressure Constable Finch came under as a result of the trial and an internal Scotland Yard inquiry. The pay for a uniformed police constable is the same as for a detective and the police were keen to emphasize that Constable Finch was not being demoted.

No decision has been taken about the future of Det Constable John Jardine, aged 38, who was also charged and cleared after the shooting.

Constable Finch, married with three children, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, joined the police as a cadet when he was 16 a had been a detective for eight years.

At the time of the shooting last January he was attached to Scotland Yard's C11 squad. He shot Mr Waldorf, whose car was stuck in traffic in west London, believing he was the escaped man David Martin and was reaching for a gun. The prosecution also alleged that Constable Finch had "pistol-whipped" Mr Waldorf as he lay wounded in the car.

Constable Finch was cleared of attempted murder on the direction of the judge, Mr Justice Croom-Johnson, and the jury later found him not guilty of wounding Mr Waldorf with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

MP predicts ban on hare-coursing

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

A Unionist MP predicted yesterday that this weekend's hare-coursing meeting at Crebilly, co Antrim, would be the last such event in Northern Ireland.

Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist deputy leader and MP for Belfast, East, made his forecast when he took his place with a hundred other demonstrators against hare-coursing yesterday. There were more than a thousand coursing supporters at the meeting.

The chances of the sport's being banned in Northern Ireland next year hinges on the respect with which the views of the Northern Ireland Assembly are regarded in London.

Some months ago the Assembly called unanimously for a ban, but it has no legislative powers and the Northern Ireland Office let the decision pass without any reaction.

The Assembly is due to debate a draft Order in Council incorporating changes in Ulster's wildlife conservation laws, which will then go to Westminster to become law.

"This Wildlife Order will give those of us who oppose this barbaric sport the opportunity to put down an amendment which will ban hare-coursing from Northern Ireland I believe this will be the last such meet to be seen here", Mr Robinson said yesterday.

Cat savaged

A girl aged 16 watched foxhounds from a traditional Christmas meeting savage her pet cat to death in her back garden yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Janet Lydall and her family heard a noise in the garden of their home in Lacock, Wiltshire, and as they went out, Saw their black cat, Cassy, surrounded by baying hounds. Neighbours joined in attempts to drive the dogs clear, but although the cat was alive when rescued, she died within minutes.

Top marks: The Fiat Uno, Car of the Year 1984.

Uno voted numero one

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Fiat's new generation supermini, the Uno, has been voted Car of the Year 1984 by motoring journalists from 16 European countries. However, it was a close thing with only a few votes separating it from another supermini the Peugeot 205.

Austin Rover's Maestro came seventh of the 15 cars considered. The highest placed Japanese car was the Mazda 626 in fifth place.

The big surprise was the poor showing of the Mercedes 190, the German quality car group's first venture into the small to medium sized saloon. It was fourth scoring 116 points compared with Uno's 346.

The Italian entry was awarded top marks by jurors from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Britain, Italy, and Norway.

The Citroen BX which was recently voted "Top Car 1984" by the British Guild of Motoring Writers and was hotly tipped for the European award because of its advanced technology, came sixth.

The last wholly British car to win the prestigious Car of the Year award was the Rover 3,500 in 1977.

Thatcher is 'Woman of the Year'

By a Staff Reporter

The Prime Minister has won the BBC "Woman of the Year" award for the second successive year.

She gained double the votes given to Mrs Joan Ruddock, chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, who came second. But the BBC declined to give any detailed figures for the award, which will be broadcast on the *Today* programme on Radio 4 this morning.

Mgr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, won the "Man of the Year" poll which was broadcast on the programme yesterday. He beat Mr Eddie Shah, who has continued to publish his Messenger group of newspapers in the face of mass picketing.

Mother Teresa took third place in the "Woman of the Year" vote, with Princess Anne fourth, and the Princess of Wales fifth. Mrs Victoria Gillick, the campaigner against contraceptive pills being prescribed for girls under 16; Miss Helen John, a founder of the Greenham Common peace camp; Jane Torvill, the ice skater; Jo Durie, the tennis player; and Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth, of the Salvation Army, completed the top 10.

Lord Tonypandy, the former Speaker of the Commons was third in the men's vote, with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, forth and Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish union leader, fifth.

The rest of the top 10 were: Mr Richard Noble, the world land speed record holder; Alex Higgins, the snooker player; Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence; Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Greater London Council leader; and The Rev Richard Harries, Radio 4's *Prayer for the Day* contributor.

Votes were also cast for the pop singer Boy George and Mr Roy Tapping, the man who carried his severed arm half a mile after a hay baling accident.

Dogs unlimited

Police officers and farmers are searching for three or four dogs which attacked a flock of pregnant ewes, killing seven and injuring six in Wembdon, near Bridgwater, Somerset, on Christmas Day.

The computer revolution

New age dawning in polys

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The microcomputer age is dawning in higher education and it is happening, appropriately enough, in the polytechnics rather than the universities.

In the vanguard of this particular revolution is the Polytechnic of the South Bank in London which now has about 200 micros and four mainframe computers, to which are lined 200 to 300 terminals. All five faculties have computer laboratories.

The polytechnic, whose director, Mr John Beishon, has taken a strong interest in promoting the new technology, wants to introduce computers to all its students, whatever their subject, so that they have "hands on" experience of micros and understand their potential. Lecturers can call on the computer services department for help with equipment and the programs needed for it.

"We are trying to respond to industry and to student demand", Mrs Pat Crocker, head of the computer services department, said. "We are finding that students now have micros at home and are quite familiar with them. They are also being recognized as a good teaching aid."

There are 11,000 part-time and full-time students at South Bank, spread out on three sites in the five faculties of administrative studies: built environment (which includes architecture, town planning and civil engineering), engineering, science and technology and education/humanities/social sciences.

The engineers use the new technology more than any other faculty from the first year onwards – for example, to design circuit boards or test equipment. Mechanical engineers had been testing the effect of wind on items of equipment and readings had to be taken every second or so. This could be done much more accurately on the micro than manually.

Students of town planning use the technology to cost highway design, social scientists for survey analysis, business studies students for financial modelling and bakery students for recipe costing and stock control. Each faculty has standardized on a system which has a range of software to suit its work.

Mrs Crocker says that there is great incentive to get students to use micros across the curriculum since the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), which approves polytechnic courses, put out a policy document earlier this year saying that it wanted new technology incorporated into all courses.

"If we do not take note of the CNAA we will not get course approval in future", Mrs Crocker said. "But we are also competing for students and we hope they will want to come here because we are offering them modern technology. We cannot afford to stand still."

Headway still has to be made with a number of departments, notably modern languages, which is linked with European business and law, but the lawyers do have at their disposal the data base Lexis, a reference system for legal cases.

Armed Forces vying for privilege of sending Briton on space shuttle

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Ministers are likely to decide within the next few months to send an astronaut up in the American space shuttle, who would be the first Briton to enter space.

There is intense rivalry among the Armed Services, for the privelege but it is Possible that a civilian would be chosen.

The Prime Minister denied on December 13 in the Commons that there were any plans to send a British astronaut, but thinking within the Government, and particularly at the Ministry of Defence, seems to point in that direction.

The possibility of sending an astronaut arises because of the decision, announced on December 20, to use the American shuttle in preference to the European Ariane rocket for launching two military communications satellites, Skynet IV and B, in late 1985 and 1986.

The shuttle can carry up to 10 people, which includes scope for carrying two or three "payload specialists". They monitor specific pieces of equipment or the satellite launch for which their government or organization is paying.

It is in that role that a British astronaut would go. He or she, would not need to be an aviator, or have super fitness required of that early astronauts.

In the case of the British payloads, it would be much more relevant for the person to be an expert in communications systems, specifically in the Skynet satellites.

The National Aeronautical and Space Administration said that it would probably need abouta year's notice if Britain wanted to send up a payload specialist, who would require about two months training at NASA, including "flights" on simulators.

Meanwhile, the Royal Navy, Army, and The Royal Air Force are believed to have prepared lists of candidates, backed with arguments on why the person should be selected from its ranks.

● Scientists at Surrey University are racing to build their second experimental spacecraft in time for launch by NASA on March 1 (the Press Association reports).

They hope to assemble the £350,000 UOSAT-2 for testing next month and delivery in February.

The spacecraft, to be launched from the western test range in California, will carry scientific and engineering experiments for use by experts and radio amateurs, and experiments for schools and colleges.

Sugar beet crop sets factory records

The sugar beet harvest is expected to produce 1·1 million tonnes of sugar.

British Sugar, at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, which handles crops from 14,000 growers, said yesterday that all 13 of its factories in the Midlands and East Anglia were operating at full capacity processing record amounts of beet.

Harvesting started in October after a two-week delay caused by the effects of a wet spring, which delayed drilling, and drought, which slowed summer root growth.

British Sugar said yesterday that 1983 "will be remembered as a year when the crop picked itself out of the doldrums and several factories set new weekly and daily slicing records". The factories are due to close by the end of next month.

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Equality case PC faces inquiry

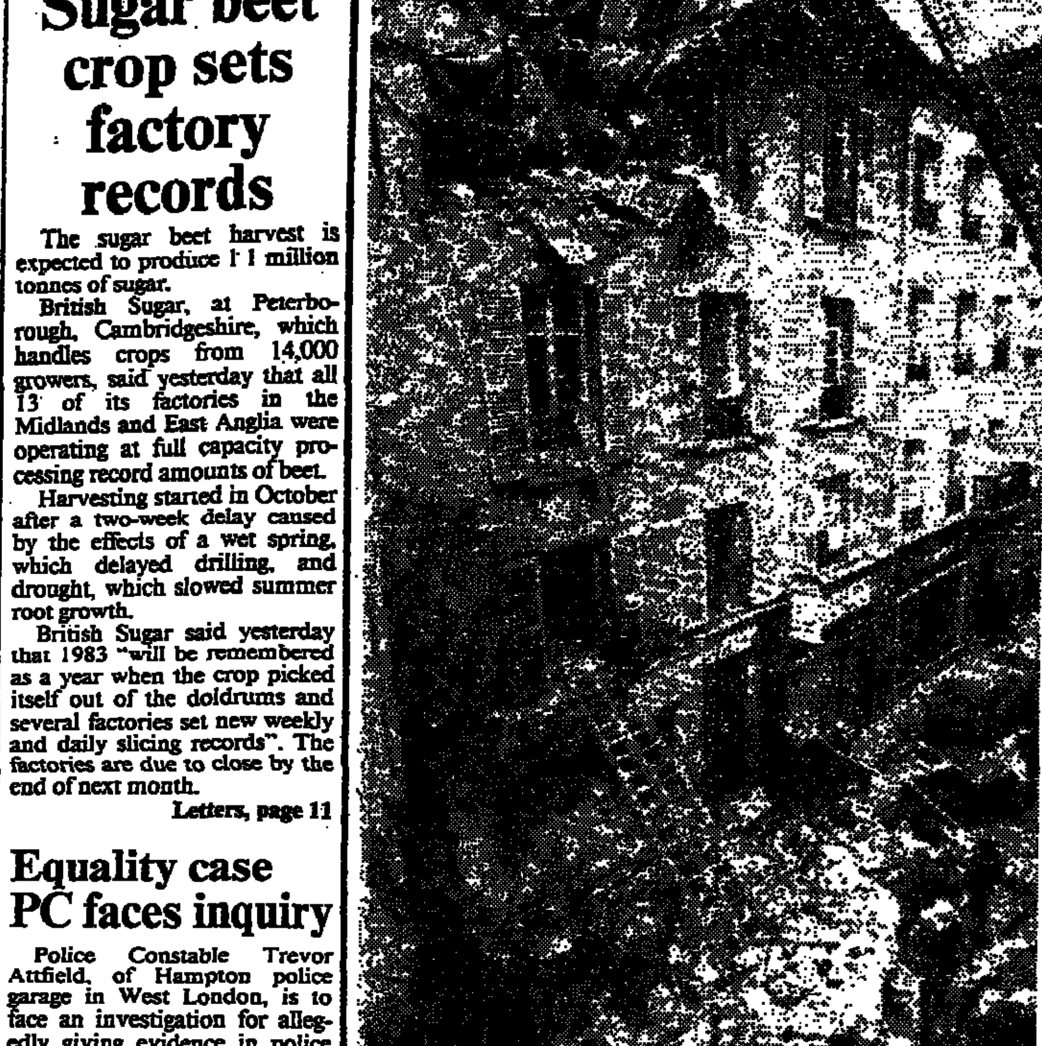
Police Constable Trevor Attfield, of Hampton police garage in West London, is to face an investigation for allegedly giving evidence in police time on behalf of a woman colleague who successfully brought a sex discrimination case against the Metropolitan Police.

PC Attfield says he cleared the time off with superiors before appearing at a tribunal on behalf of WPC Wendy de Launay.

Comedian's foot crushed

Jim Davidson, the comedian, cancelled shows at the Apollo Theatre, Coventry, last night after dropping a paving slab on his foot on Christmas Day.

His press agent, Miss Pat Lake-Smith, said Davidson almost lost a toe in the accident. A decision will be made today about whether he will appear in the rest of the shows.





Bleak holiday: In Paris yesterday (left), where a woman was killed and three other people injured when a gas explosion wrecked a three-storey building; and in New York, where 10 people were hurt in a hotel fire

Allay fears on ministry, church told

The Church of Scotland was urged today to make a "fresh and clear statement" of its procedures for selecting candidates for the ministry.

The call, in a leading article *in the Church of Scotland* magazine *Life and work*, comes after the recent disclosures that a convicted killer and a former bank manager convicted of embezzlement have been accepted as candidates.

The magazine says that in these two "exceptional" cases the reasons why the men were accepted were given, but many prospective candidates who were rejected said that they were not given a reason.



Honeymoon couple: Steve Cram, the world 1,500 metres champion, and his wife the former Miss Karen Waters, who were married 11 days ago, flew to the United States on their honeymoon yesterday. The couple will spend about ten days in Tampa, Florida, before travelling to New Zealand, where Cram, aged 23, intends to spent two months training. On Friday, Cram was awarded the C. N. Jackson Memorial Cup, given by the Amateur Athletics Association to the year's most outstanding athlete.

Vaccination campaigns

The 'trivial' disease that kills 900,000 a year

Tetanus, poliomyelitis and diphtheria have virtually been eliminated from Britain, but measles still flourishes, helped by public apathy. Thomson Prentice concludes his series with a look at the statistical evidence that immunization campaigns really do work.

In the United States, measles has been almost completely wiped out. In Britain this year, there has been an epidemic involving more than 100,000 children. In the United States, vaccination against measles is compulsory. In this country, fewer than six in 10 children receive the vaccine.

Senior officials at the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) are concerned at the comparatively low uptake, and suspect that public apathy is largely responsible. Measles is seen as a trivial infection, with the cure being not much better than the disease, a fever and fleeting rash often follows inoculation.

Yet measles causes an average of 20 deaths a year in Britain. In a typical epidemic, 10,000 children in England alone would suffer complications, including deafness in 2,500 cases and partial deafness in 5,000 others.

The number of children vaccinated against measles in England last year was 368,512, only 20,000 more than in 1974. In 1978, the figure was as low as 302,075. Worldwide, measles causes 900,000 deaths annually, mainly in Third World countries.

A study published early this year indicated that up to 4.5 million people in Britain are susceptible to the disease. The decision by the Princess of Wales last month to have Prince William inoculated against measles received less publicity than her endorsement of the national rubella campaign, but the DHSS was heartened by her move.

The Department hopes that more mothers will follow the Princess's example. The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunization is trying to promote a greater public response.

The public's response to poliomyelitis, in contrast, has been dramatically positive. Fears of the disease have always outweighed any worries about the risks of side-effects from the vaccine, calculated at one in three million. The uptake in England is now 82 per cent; in 1981, 554,481 children were vaccinated.

Only four cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were reported last year. Two of those were vaccine-associated – one a child, the other a mother. In the third, the infection was acquired abroad; in the fourth, it was diagnosed in an infant boy who had a febrile illness.

Polio has been virtually eliminated; so too has diphtheria. There were four cases in England in 1982, including that of a girl aged three who died in hospital. She had not been immunized. In the three previous years, there were only seven cases. The vaccination rate last year was 84 per cent.

Tetanus is another infection almost completely defeated by vaccination. The vaccine is usually combined with those for whooping cough and diptheria, and administered in the same injection. However, a version excluding whooping cough is also available, explaining why tetanus and diptheria share an 84 per cent uptake while whooping cough remains at just 53 per cent.

But people aged over 65, who were too old to be immunized in the first wave of vaccinations, remain at risk from tetanus. Between five and 10 tetanus deaths are recorded in England every year, almost all involving people of that age group.

The usual timetable for immunizations is: Diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio: from age three months; again at five to six months; and again at nine to 11 months. Measles: from 12 to 24 months. Boosters for diptheria, tetanus and polio: at about five years of age. Rubella, or German measles: girls aged 10 to 14. Tuberculosis: girls and boys aged about 13 years. Tetanus and polio: when leaving school, aged between 15 and 19. **Concluded**

Law Report December 28, 1983

What the signature of a company is

UBAF Ltd v European American Banking Corporation

Before Lord Justice Ackner and Lord Justice Oliver

[Judgment delivered December 9]

The signature on behalf of a company of its duly authorized agent acting within the scope of his authority was the signature of the company for the purpose of section 6 of the Statute of Frauds Amendment Act 1828.

Further, it was a matter of evidence whether the plaintiffs' cause of action accrued when they entered into a contract as a result of innocent but negligent misrepresentations, since it was not inevitable that they had suffered damage merely by entering into the contract.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the appellants, UBAF Ltd, from an order by Mr Justice Leggatt who set aside an order of Mr Justice Staughton who had given leave to serve a writ on the defendants, European American Banking Corporation, out of the jurisdiction.

Mr Kenneth Rokison, QC and Mr Timothy Charlton for the appellant plaintiffs; Mr Leonard Hoffmann, QC and Mr Richard Siberry for the respondent defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ACKNER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the plaintiffs were an English banking corporation and the defendants were a New York banking corporation. The defendants approached the plaintiffs and requested them to participate in two loans which the defendants were intending to make to two Panamanian corporations in the Colocotronis group of shipping companies.

A letter signed by the defendant's assistant secretary was sent to the plaintiffs together with information about the loans. The plaintiffs alleged that the defendants represented to them that the intended loans were "attractive financing of two companies in a sound and profitable group" and in reliance on those representations the plaintiffs lent US$500,000 to each company.

The Colocotronis group got into difficulties and the two companies defaulted and $880,000 remained outstanding. The plaintiffs brought a claim pleading three separate causes of action: deceit, misrepresentation under section 2(1) of the Misrepresentation Act 1967 and negligence in the presentation of the transactions.

The defendants contended that the claim in deceit was precluded by section 6 of the Statute of Frauds Amendment Act 1828 (Lord Tenterden's Act), which equally ruled out any claim under the Misrepresentation Act 1967. They also contended that any claim in negligence was statute barred because the writ was issued more than six years after the cause of action (if any) arose.

Section 6 of Lord Tenterden's Act provided: "... no action shall be brought whereby to charge any person upon or by reason of any representation or assurance made or given concerning or relating to the character, conduct, credit, ability, trade or dealings of any other person, to the intent or purpose that such other person may obtain credit, money or goods upon, unless such representation or assurance be made in writing, signed by the party to be charged therewith."

It was common ground that the action applied to fraudulent misrepresentations only: and that "person" in the section included a corporation.

The matter at issue was whether the signature of the defendant's assistant secretary constituted the signature of the party to be charged.

Once it was accepted that the section applied to a corporation, the signature of some person must be sufficient for the purposes of the Act. The court did not know any detail concerning the terms of the assistant secretary's actual authority or what his status was in the defendant company.

Evidence was therefore required to determine the issue and accordingly the matter had to be allowed to proceed.

Further, having considered *Hirst v West Riding Union Banking Co Ltd* ([1902] 2 KB 560) and *Swift v Jewsbury* ((1874) LR 9 QB 301), his Lordship found that there was no impediment in authority in deciding, and it should now be decided, that the signature on behalf of a company of its duly authorized agent acting within the scope of his authority was, for the purposes of section 6 of Lord Tenterden's Act, the signature of the company.

The defendants successfully contended before Mr Justice Leggatt that the accrual of the cause of action occurred when the plaintiffs parted with their money and acquired instead claims for repayment of money lent against borrowers whose ability to repay was, contrary to the alleged representations, a matter of considerable doubt.

The short answer to that question depended upon the facts as found at the trial. The plaintiffs' case was that if they had known the respects in which the representations were inaccurate, they would not have entered into the contracts.

Accordingly, the defendants argued that at the very moment of entering into that contract the plaintiffs must have suffered damage.

That bare proposition was not self evident. The plaintiffs were suing in the tort of negligence. To establish a cause of action they had to establish not only a breach of duty but that that breach of duty occasioned them damage. That was axiomatic.

It was possible that at the date when the plaintiffs advanced their money the value of the chose in action which they then acquired was in fact not less than the sum which the plaintiffs lent, or indeed even exceeded it.

That had to depend on the evidence. The mere fact that the innocent but negligent misrepresentations caused the plaintiffs to enter into a contract which they otherwise would not have entered into, did not inevitably mean that they had suffered damage by merely entering into the contract.

Even if it was wrong to conclude that evidence was required to establish whether or not the plaintiffs' alleged cause of action accrued when the loan was advanced, there was a further matter to consider.

The plaintiffs sought to rely on section 32(1)(b), of the Limitation Act 1980 on the basis that the falsity of the representations was known to the defendants and that the relevant facts were concealed.

The plaintiffs entered into a transaction of contributing to a syndicate loan where the defendants were acting in a fiduciary duty for all the other participants.

If, therefore, it was within the defendants' knowledge at any time while they were carrying on their fiduciary duties that the security was inadequate, it must have been their duty to inform the participants and their continued failure to do so would constitute a continuing breach of their fiduciary duty.

The validity of a claim to rely upon section 32(1)(b) depended on the evidence and could only be decided at trial.

The appeal should be allowed and the summons to set aside service of the writ dismissed.

Solicitors: Clifford-Turner; Freshfields.

Chastisement must be controlled

Regina v Taylor

Although it was a schoolmaster's right and duty to control and, if necessary, chastise pupils in his care, he must act reasonably. Whether force used was reasonable was a matter for a jury, but reasonable chastisement involved a controlled, if not an entirely cool response and the throwing of an exercise book at a pupil could not come within that category.

Mr Justice Nolan (sitting with Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Boreham) so held on December 19 when the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by a teacher, Martyn Taylor, against his conviction on June 22, 1982 at Bristol Crown Court (Mr Recorder Drinkwater, QC and a jury) of assault occasioning actual bodily harm to a 12-year-old pupil.

Correction

In *Granby Marketing Services Ltd v Interlego AG and Another* (*The Times*, December 19, 1983), solicitors for the plaintiffs were Philip Conn & Co, Manchester.

Nakasone defends choice of Tanaka backers

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Mr Yahusiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday defended his selection of six members of the Tanaka faction in his new Cabinet.

At a nationally televised press conference, Mr Nakasone denied that Mr Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, had ever meddled in the political affairs of his previous government. He said reports of such activity in the press had been misleading to voters in the election campaign.

The Tanaka issue appears to have been responsible for the sharply decreased vote for the ruling Liberal Democracy Party. Mr Tanaka is appealing against his conviction and four-year jail sentence in the Lockheed bribery scandal.

Explaining his selection of so mamy Tanaka followers in his 20-man Cabinet – by far the strongest representation – Mr Nakasone said: "It doesn't make sense to deprive qualified people (of posts) just because they belong to Tanaka's group."

Reflecting his reading of public opinion, however, Mr Nakasone eased Tanaka men out of previousl held sensitive posts such as Secretary-General of the party, Chief Cabinet Secretary and Justice Minister.

For the first time since the LDP came to power in 1955 the Cabinet also includes an opposition party member, the leader of the National Liberal Club whose alliance with the LDP gave Mr Nakason enough votes to control the critical budget committee, though still well below the LDP's absolute majority of 286 seats held before the election.

Nakasone's team: left, Mr Hikosaburo Okonogi (International Trade and Industry); centre, Mr Shintaro Abe (Foreign); and Mr Yuko Kurihara (Defence).

Rare public appearance by Mao's daughter

Peking (Reuter) – Mao Tse-tung's disgraced successor as Communist Party leader, Mr Hua Guofeng, has made a rare public appearance together with Mao's daughter by his jailed wife, Jiang Qing, the *People's Daily* reported.

The party newspaper said the two paid their respects to Mo's remains in the central Peking mausoleum on Monday as part of ceremonies marking the ninetieth anniversary of his birth.

According to the Hongkong magazine, *Zhengming*, Mr Hua Recently tried to commit suicide.

He was forced to resign in June, 1981, after his policies were attacked as too leftist. He was succeeded by Mr Hu Yaobang whose views are more in line with those of Mr Deng Xiaoping, a sworn enemy of Maoist Dogmatism

Mr Deng and his associates have stripped Mr Hua of most of his power.

The *People's Daily* named Mao's daughter, Li Na as among family members who paid homage to his remains in their crystal sarcophagus. It did not mention that she is the only child of Jiang Qing who was given a suspended death sentence in 1981 for conspiring to usurp state power as leader of the Gang of Four.

Li Na, aged about 40, wielded enormous power at the height of the Cultural Revolution in 1967 when she was chief editor of the *Liberation Army Daily*. The position was of particular importance because the army newsapaper had at that time replaced the *People's Daily* as the mouthpiece of the Central Committee.

Warsaw hesitates over food price rise

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Food price rises, traditionally the most sensitive and volatile issue in Polish politics, may be postponed beyond the scheduled date of January 1 while the Government draws up a palatable package for the nation, economic experts and Communist Party officials have disclosed.

Since November the Government has been "consulting" the nation on whether it approves an increase in prices that would entail a 4.5 per cent increase in living standards or a 6.5 per cent rise. The idea is to reduce subsidies given to food, change consumption habits so that people eat food that is not dependent on imports and – though this is officially denied – to soak up surplus zloties on the market.

Government leaders have admitted that the response to food price rises of any kind is overwhelmingly negative. Some 40,000 letters have been received by the Council of Ministers' office, many complaining about the effect of the rises on fixed income households such as pensioners.

There have been angry scenes in factory meetings to discuss the rises. Representatives of Communist Party cells in 200 of the principal plants have warned the leadership that the increases will bring trouble in industry.

The Consultative Economic Council, a group of economists advising the Government, has recommended that a much milder form of increase be introduced and that the increases should be phased in slowly.

The Government is evidently taking some of these criticisms seriously. First, say party sources, an automatic increase in food prices on January 1 would be bad propaganda, giving the population the impression that the leadership had not taken sufficient account of the "consultations".

Second, the Government seems set to pick the mildest of the price rises and even then to exclude certain food products. Finally, at least some politicians within the Government are advising a more phased approach.

The results of the popular soundings – made through the new pro-Government trades unions and other organizations – will be published early next month.

Local polls begin Ershad's return to democracy

Dhaka (Reuter) – Voting began yesterday to rural council in Bangladesh, the first such elections in seven years.

General Hossain Mohammad Ershad the military ruler, said the electiions would lay The foundations for a return to democracy.

Voting will continue until January 10, followed by municipal elections in urban areas on February 11 and sub-district council elections on March 24.

Opponents of General Ershad are against plans to hold a presidential election on May 24 and parliamentary polls later, on November 25. They say that a presidential election held beforehand would help General Ershad to instal himself permanently as President.

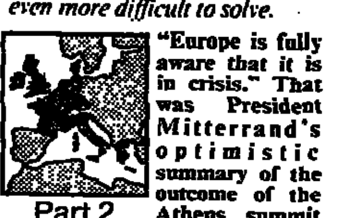
General Ershad seized power in 1982, and named himself President this month after anti-government violence.

Five of 12 Soviet diplomats expelled from Bangladesh left the country on Monday official sources said yesterday.

EEC presidency changes hands

Mitterrand versus Thatcher

France begins its six-month term as president of the EEC's Council of Ministers with the new year. In this second article on the crisis in the EEC, Our Brussels Correspondent, **Ian Murray**, *looks at how French domestic pressures could make the Community's problems even more difficult to solve.*





Part 2

"Europe is fully aware that it is in crisis." That was President Mitterrand's optimistic summary of the outcome of the Athens summit when he refused to answer any press questions on the ground that he was about to take over the presidency of the EEC.

It was an optimistic comment because the EEC member states have so far given precious little practical indication that they are aware of any internal crisis. Even though the European Commission was forced to freeze some payments from October in order to eke out the 1983 budget, the summit failed to grasp that the money was running out so quickly that something had to be agreed urgently.

As a result the towering 900,000-tonne surplus butter mountain continues to grow, French and West German farmers go on snarling at each other about "green" currency rates, and the poisonous British budget problem is beginning to infect the entire body politic of the Community.

But the crisis has yet to come because there is still enough money to go round and, unless Britain withholds payment of all or part of its contributions, there will be enough money to go round throughout the French presidency.



President Mitterrand: taking over negotiations himself

It remains an open question whether enough countries will perceive the crisis before the cash runs out in order to summon up the so-called "political will" to do something about it.

Should they do so then President Mitterrand could preside over the creation of the "second generation Europe" which Brussels visionaries have been looking towards anxiously for some time. Should the crisis be reached then President Mitterrand will have a handy scapegoat in Mrs Thatcher.

The next six months look like being a classic encounter between the irresistible force of Mrs Thatcher's arguments and the immovable objections of President Mitterrand. Mrs Thatcher actually looked forward in Athens to the crisis ahead as being the one certain way of bringing everyone else to their senses. President Mitterrand, too, looked forward to it as providing the catalyst for decisions.

In Athens he also showed that he intends to take over control of the negotiations from his ministers. It was he who threw the ultimate spanner in the barely moving works of the summit by offering Mrs Thatcher another short-term budget deal, and by refusing to discuss binding controls on spending – both ideas accepted by French ministers in earlier meetings.

French officials involved in the negotiations admitted privately that they had been as amazed as the British by the way in which the President seemed to ignore all that had gone before.

M Mitterrand has also underlined his intention of staying in control by his appointment of a close personal friend, M Roland Dumas, as Minister for European Affairs. His chief qualification for the job would seen to be that he has the ear of the President.

Giving in to Mrs Thatcher would cost President Mitterrand dear. He made a great deal of political capital in opposition by accusing his predecessor, M Giscard D'Estaing, of giving way when the first British deal was struck in 1980. It would be difficult for him not to lose a great deal of face if he followed suit.

Equally, he cannot risk the unpopularity that would follow any large-scale reform of the common agricultural policy in which French farmers would lose income. They are already facing a zero price increase this year, and their tempers are notoriously short in these circumstances.

Given all this, the French President is unlikely to be conciliatory in the chair, unless he believes that success can win him votes. While individual ministers will be urged to make progress on their complicated dossiers, President Mitterrand can be expected to oversee everything with the 1986 French elections in mind.

Tomorrow: Britain holds the key

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Israel resolves to stamp out stone-throwing in West Bank

From Christopher Walker, Bethlehem

The Israeli Government is considering new measures to deter Palestinian stone-throwers, including the demolition of houses and other buildings near main roads used by Jewish vehicles, and deportation for those found guilty of inciting the attacks.

Both options are available to the military authorities under draconian security regulations originally drafted by the British in 1945 and still in force in the occupied West Bank.

The probability of their rapid introduction was disclosed yesterday by Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, during a visit to two of the largest West Bank refugee camps, Balata near Nablus and Dheishe outside Bethlehem.

While soldiers and security men with sub-machine guns kept the hostile camp residents at a safe distance, Mr Arens conferred with senior officers about the new measures, after the recent increase in attacks on Jewish settlers. At no time did he make any effort to enter the warren of alleys and narrow streets in the camp.

Dheishe, a sprawling eyesore, which houses about 10,000 refugees, is on the main road linking the holy cities of Jerusalem and Hebron and has been the scene of repeated attacks on Jews travelling to and from the large settlement of Kiryat Arba. The Authorities have responded with curfews and by blocking roads in the camp.

Standing alongside used cartridges of Israeli CS gas left from a recent riot, Mr Arens was asked what was being considered. "We are looking at the possibility of deportation as a possible measure of punishment in addition to those punishments that exist," he said. It was stressed that this would not necessarily apply to young stone-throwers, whom he referred to as "hooligans", but to those who incited them.

On the question of the demolition of houses and schools built close to the road, Mr Arens said: "That is certainly an approach we are looking at. It is a common one when it comes to road safety, to make sure that there is space between roads and the area where people move or live. To the extent that this is possible for us, this is the correct way to go."

Camp residents, whose walls are covered in painted-over Palestinian slogans, expressed anxiety about the proposed measures. Many fear that the Israelis plan to move the entire camp under a scheme for resettling the Palestinians being considered by the Cabinet. But Mr Arens denied his unexpected trip had anything to do with that.

His hard-line approach was in stark contrast to remarks made by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, earlier this month when he played down the importance of stone-throwing and told settlers that no switch in security policy was required.

The proposals are likely to be criticized by the US State Department which wants to improve the quality of life of the 800,000 Palestinians in the West Bank.



Ailing economy reels as unions get tough

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

With inflation approaching 200 per cent, Israel is facing an unparalleled wave of labour unrest which yesterday grew more serious when postal workers began an indefinite strike which crippled services and posed a new threat to the ailing economy.

Further public services are expected to be hit as trade unionists step up their campaign against the Government's declared intention of cutting real wages by 10 per cent and reducing the standard of living in an effort to rescue the country from its balance-of-payments crisis. Already this week, violence has erupted at one workers' protest march near the Red Sea port of Eilat and in Jerusalem, an angry crowd of 1,000 organized by the Israeli equivalent of the Trades Union Congress, paralysed traffic as it marched through the street, chanting "bread and work".

The violence in Eilat flared when about 150 men protested against the proposed closure of a local copper mine near the site of the historical mines of King Solomon. Tear gas was used to break up the demonstration and one policeman and two demonstrators were injured.

The bulk of the industrial unrest has so far been in the public sector which faces a 3 per cent manpower cut under budget plans to be presented to the Cabinet by Mr Yigal Cohen-Orgad, the Finance Minister. He is also seeking overall spending cuts of about £1,000m.

In addition to the postal strike, the Government faces other protests. These were yesterday reported to be imminent in the agriculture and transport ministries, the meteorological office, local government offices and the customs and excise department.

On Monday night, Mr Asher Ohayon, the director-general of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, gave warning that the ministry's institutions, which serve 100,000 Israelis, were on the verge of catastrophe as a result of wage demands. He said the system would begin collapsing later this week.

The Government's determination to rescue Israel economic crisis by the most stringent belt-tightening measures since the right-wing Likud coalition won power in 1977 has brought an angry reaction from its grass roots.

This discontent – which could have severe political consequences – came to the fore at a meeting in Tel Aviv of the coalition's dominant Herut Party. Mr David Levi, the Deputy Prime Minister, was subjected to scathing criticism of the Government's economic plans.

Many of the attacks came from oriental Jews from the poorer towns – the group which put the Likud in power and has since maintained it there. Mr Shalom Ovnish from Mr Levi's home town of Beit Shean claimed that in every development town "what is now missing is only the person who will strike the match to set the blaze".

Mr Ovnish asked: "How much longer will dozens of unemployed youngsters walk around idle? It is the public which gave you the mandate to run the state. This government does not realize who it is hurting.

As the social unrest gathers momentum, Mr Shimon Peres, the leader of the main Labour opposition, last week held meetings with Mr Ezer Weizman, the former Defence Minister and Mr Yitzhak Modai, the Energy Minister. This rekindled speculation about possible moves for an early election or an attempt to replace the Government inside the present Knesset.

Interviewed on Israel television, Mr Peres – whose party has taken the lead in recent opinion polls – said: "I am sorry to say we have not yet hit bottom economically and it will take some time, maybe a month or two, before people are convinced that there is simply no other option than a change of government."



Anniversary march: Afghan exiles demonstrating outside the Soviet Embassy in Bayswater Road, London, yesterday, to mark the fourth anniversary of the Russian intervention in Afghanistan (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

EEC in Afghan anniversary appeal to Russia

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain and other members of the European Economic Community yesterday marked the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan by denouncing the continued presence there of Soviet troops and calling for thier withdrawal.

A statement issued from Athens on behalf of the 10 member states of the EEC said they remained deeply concerned at continuation of the occupation and by the violation of the independence of Afghanistan.

It called on the Soviet Union urgently to withdraw it troops, and said the countries were ready to support any constructive initiative aimed at finding a lasting and principled solution to the problem.

On behalf of Britain alone, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, issued a strong but similar statement, which referred to the "brutal and relentless war" waged by the Soviet Union, and called on the Russians "to honour their international obligations under the UN Charter, and to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan".

He said that since the invasion at Christmas, 1979, "countless villages have been destroyed together with their crops and irrigation systems. Tens of thousands of Afghans habe been killed or injured in indiscriminate and violent attacks. Literally millions have been driven abroad as refugees.

"In Kabul the Karmal regime, totally dependent on Soviet power for its survival pursues a vicious policy of political repression, imprisonment and torture."

The spirit of the Afghan people remained unbroken. More than 100,000 Soviet troops had failed to suppress the resistance to the occupation. Despite their appalling suffering the Afghan people remained determined to defend their way of life and to regain their independence.

In a communiqué issued from Bonn Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said that blood continued to be shed and no end was in sight.

● ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan yesterday renewed its offer to send home the 105,000 Soviet troops, but a key resistance leader vowed that the rebels would fight until they drove the Russians out (Reuter reports).

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of the fundamentalist Hezb-I-Islami Party, and vice-president of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan, rejected any political settlement with the Soviet Union and accused Moscow of trying to deceive the world with its proposal for a negotiated settlement.

The Afghan offer, in a Radio Kabul broadcast, included a demand for international guarantees that all resistance would stop.

Breakthrough for Brazilian plane

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Brazil's Embraer Aircraft Company is to sell 120 of its two-seater Tucano trainer planes to Egypt in a contract worth $180m (£120m). The first 40 will be delivered next year in assembled form; the remaining 80 are to be supplied as kits, to be assembled in Egypt during the subsequent three years. Some of them may be sold to other Arab countries.

Embraer is also a contender for supplying the Tucano to the Royal Air Force, which will soon need 300 new trainers. The Tucano flies at 280 mph, and can carry two 120-kilo bombs, and machine-guns.

Embraer has also now gained its first firm orders for ten of the new 30-seater Brasilia feeder aircraft from a Boston airline. More than 100 options on the new plane have now been taken out.

Embraer hopes that the Brasilia, to cost $4.5m (£3.1m), will repeat the success of the 18-seater Bandeirante, of which 450 have been sold in the past seven years, 230 of them abroad, including several to Britain. However, the Bandeirante had almost no competitors when it first appeared, and there will be four planes to compete with the Brasilia.

● **Antarctic trip:** Brazil's second expedition to the Antarctic will leave for a ten 'weeks' voyage on January 6. Since its first expedition early this year, Brazil has been admitted as a full member of the now 16-strong Antarctic Consultative Committee.

Despite its economic difficulties, it has decided it must make an estimated annual outlay of at least $25m on its research programme, so as to qualify to take part in the next meetings to discuss the future of the continent, due in 1991.

However, it is not proposing to make a territorial claim for any part of Antarctica, unlike neighbouring Argentina or Chile, parts of whose claims overlap and others such as Britain and Norway.

Happy couple: An official photograph of Princess Caroline of Monaco and her fiancé, Signor de Stefano Casiraghi.

El Salvador says 200 rebels killed by Army

San Salvador (Reuter) – The Salvadorean Army has killed more than 250 left-wing guerrillas during a two-week operation in the north east of the country, more than 50 of them in fighting at the weekend, the area commander said.

Many more guerrillas were wounded in the latest infantry and air operation near the village of Sesori, the commander told Reuters by telephone from his headquarters in San Miguel, 70 miles east of here.

He said troops had intercepted groups of guerrillas retreating from fighting in nearby Ciudad Barrios, 65 miles north east of the capital.



Radio Venceremos, the guerrillas' radio, has said more than 300 soldiers and 15 guerrillas have died during the Army push involving 2,000 troops. The rebels rarely admit casualties

The Army operation was launched after guerrillas briefly took a strategic communications post on December 13. Radio Venceremos has accused the US-backed Army of indiscriminate bombing of villages during the operation.

Following similar accusations by Radio Venceremos in the first week of battle, a Reuter correspondent in Ciudad Barrios saw no signs of bombing and residents said fighting had taken place outside the village. But military sources said the Army counts as guerrillas the often unarmed "camp followers" carrying food and ammunition.

Villagers go to war with Rhine Army

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The 8,000 inhabitants of the little village of Augustdorf in Lower Saxony have declared war on the British Army of the Rhine, and are preparing "active resistance" to the Army's plans to build a concrete mock village near by in which to practise anti-guerrilla warfare.

The Army wants wants to erect a complex of 90 houses on the Sennelager training ground where troops will be able to engage in mock battles and house-to-house fighting. But the proposed ghost village, landscaped to blend in with local architecture, will be only 300 yards from the nearest house of the real village of Augustdorf, whose inhabitants are already up in arms over the countinuous bursts of gunfire from the shooting ranges.

At a meeting just before Christmas, the local council voted unanimously to try to halt construction of the village, due to start early next year, and threatened to march into the closed training area and sit down in protest. They have already sent letters to the British Ambassador in Bonn and to Herr Manfred Wörner, the defence Minister, asking them to intervene.

There is little the villagers can do, however, as the training area is governed by a military agreement between Britain and West Germany. The Rhine Army insists, that the mock village, which will include two-storey houses, farmhouses and several "strategic" public buildings, is needed to give its troops, as well as Dutch and West German forces, practice in street fighting which it says, will be essential in repelling a conventional attack on West Germany.

Herr Adolf Steffen, the council director, said Augustdorf had been complaining about the noise from the range for the past 10 years, windows had been broken by vibration and school pupils had to sit in the middle of classrooms for fear of glass shattering.

The Army says it has given proper notice and gone through the right channels.

The inhabitants of Augustdorf, however, says there has been no real consultation.

Flick group must repay £112m taxes

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

The Flick group of companies, accused of bribing Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, in return for tax concessions on the sale of shares, must repay around DM450m (£112m) in back taxes, according to reliable reports here.

The Düsseldorf-based conglomerate sold shares in Daimler-Benz in 1976 and 1978, and used much of the proceeds to invest in the Grace company in the United States. Flick claimed 31 per cent tax relief on this reinvestment on the grounds that it was of national economic benefit

The Bonn public porseutor maintains that the Economics Ministry agreed to the concession because substantial payments for party funds were given by Flick to Count Lambsdorff, the Minister, and to his predecessor.

Foreign office invites policy group to put case

Leaders of the right-wing Adam Smith Research Institute are being invited to the Foreign Office to discuss details of their report urging a new approach to British foreign policy. A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "We are always interested in proposals seeking to establish better ways of formulating foreign policy".

However it seems unlikely that the main conclusion of the report – that Britain should have a national security council – will be adopted. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was sceptical about the idea when he spoke to a private meeting of Conservative backbenchers

Iraqi held for bombing in Kuwait

Kuwait (AP) – An Iraqi wanted in connexion with the December 12 bomb attacks here against the US and French embassies and other targets has been arrested. A government spokesman said 19 suspects are now in custody.

Previously, Kuwait had said that 12 people, including a man who died in a suicide attack against the US Embassy, were responsible. All of the initial suspects are identified as members of an underground Iraqi-based party with allegiance to Iran.

Sweden shops in the dark

Stockholm (AP) – A power failure struck Sweden and parts of Denmark, stopping trains and underground travel in Stockolm and darkening stories filled with post-Christmas shoppers in three of Sweden's largest cities.

Police accused

Lima, Peru (AP). – Two high-ranking prison officials and seven police officers have been ordered to stand trial for negligent homicide in the death of a Belfast-born nun Sister Joan Sawyer, aged 51, killed by police bullets while held hostage during an attempted prison break. Eight convicts also died.

Kidnap foiled

Rome (AP) – Five people suspected of planning to abduct a Rome countess on Christmas Day were arrested after police discovered a 9ft deep underground "prison" where they intended to hold her.

Pilot rescued

Copenhagen (AP) – Simon Willbourne, aged 32, of Somerton, Somerset, spent 13 minutes in icy water near Copenhagen airport after he ditched a twin-engined aircraft in the sea. He was rescued by helicopter.

Arm sewn on

Cape Town (AP) – A Dutch seaman was in satisfactory condition after doctors reattached his severed right arm and his partially severed right leg on Chrismas Eve. He was injured in an accident on board his ship.

Sabena strike

Brussels (AP) – Staff of the Belgian airline Sabena went on strike again for one day, after unanimously rejecting a draft agreement reached last week between management and unions. All except early flights were cancelled.

Rail toll rises

Harrare (Reuter) – The death toll in Zimbabwe's worst railway accident, a Christmas Eve derailment near the coal mining town of Hwange, rose to 34 when three more bodies were found in the wreckage.

Burglar, aged 7

Liège (AP) – A seven-year-old gipsy boy who entered a house at night after breaking a window was arrested in possession of stolen jewelry. Several houses in the area were burgled recently.

Paris denies Lebanon pullout

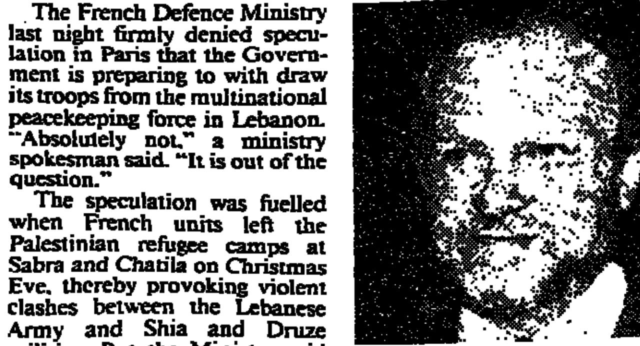
From Our Correspondent, Paris

The French Defence Ministry last night firmly denied speculation in Paris that the Government is preparing to with draw its troops from the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon. "Absolutely not," a ministry spokesman said. "It is out of the question."

The speculation was fuelled when French units left the Palestinian refugee camps at Sabra and Chatila on Christmas Eve, thereby provoking violent clashes between the Lebanese Army and Shia and Druze militias. But the Ministry said yesterday that the withdrawal indicated no change of policy, "only a redeployment for security and tactical reasons".

Rumours that France was changing its policy were reported by several French papers, including the left-wing *Lebération*, and picked up by international news agencies. Since France joined the multinational force in 1982, 82 of its soldiers have been killed and 96 injured.

Only last week, however, M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, tried to stem the



M Charles Heuru: New Year in Chad

rumours by declaring that French policy remained unchanged. He then flew to Beirut to spend Christmas with the French contingent and discuss security and tactics with its commanders.

France has 2,000 soldiers in the multinational group, another 1,000 with the United Nations peacekeeping force. They are supported by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, which is patrolling the Lebanese coast. Its aircraft include 16 super-Etendards

M Hernu will fly on Saturday to Chad to spend New Year with French troops there. The garrison of 2,800 went to Chad last summer to stiffen Government resistance to rebel forces backed by Libya. French commanders in Chad can also call upon troops stationed in the neighbouring Central African Republic.

France's Socialist Government has made few changes in the network of cooperation and military assistance agreements with former colonies around the world. Some 4,500 French troops are in Polynesia, 3,000 in New Guinea and 7,300 in the Antilles and French Guiana. More French forces are based permanently in former African colonies: 300 in Gabon, 1,200 in the Central African Republic, 1,200 Senegal, 500 in the Ivory Coast, and 3,500 in Djibouti.

These numbers understate French strength, however, since many of the troops are specialists who maintain arms, ammunition and weapons systems, including tanks and self-propelled artillery.

Rock 'n Roll puts Burma authorities in a twist

Rangoon (AFP) – The plain-clothes policeman, waving his megaphone towards a group of young rock 'n roll dancers, shouted: "Attention, first warning; it is forbidden to shake the body".

"We shake our bodies because we feel like it", retorted a resentful youth wearing a Western shirt and faded jeans, cut short and tignt at the ankles.

This scene at an annual charity festival symbolizes the gap between the official puritanism of General Ne Win's Government and the wishes of privileged Burmese youth, who are able to buy Western goods on the black market.

The star turn of the evening was a group called Playboy, the most popular of Burma's five or six pop groups, which began to appear a few years ago.

Even the name of the group, featured on big publicity posters with the inevitable logo of a pair of bunny ears, is provocative in a country where official propaganda strongly discourages Western tendencies, particularly among young people.

But the Government is apparently unwilling to harass young people too much, so it tolerates popular music on condition that they do not "shake their bodies".

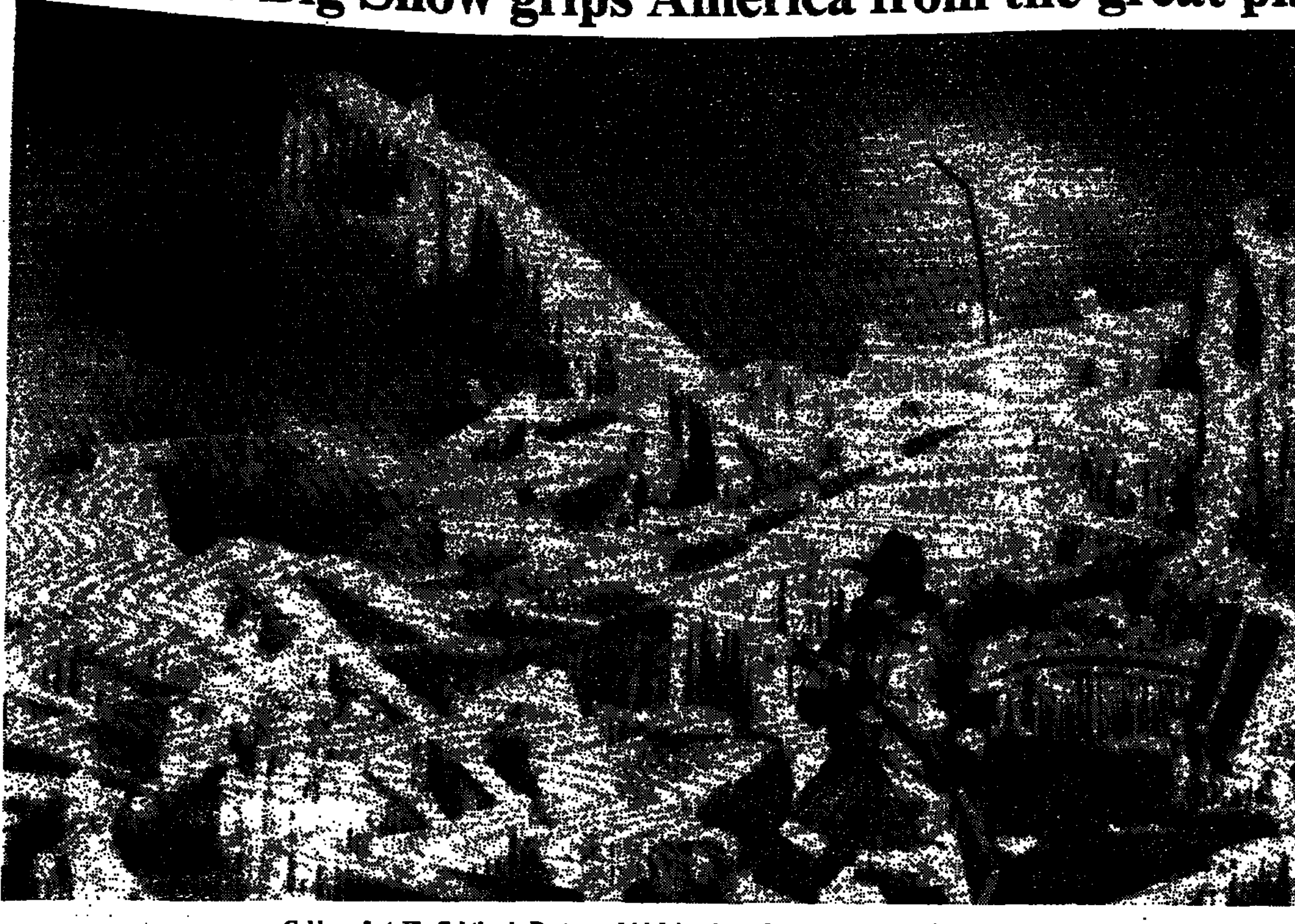
The Playboy group also manages to placate the authorities while catering to modern tastes by interspersing pop songs with traditionally inspired music.

The black market brings a substantial quantity of Western goods from Thailand into Rangoon, where they are in great demand

For these privileged children, mainly the sons and daughters of influential officials, jeans are better than the traditional *longyi* (a type of sarong knotted at the front).

Police have also begun raiding Rangoon's red light district, and have virtually closed down the half-dozen restaurants or bars in Rangoon where pretty young hostesses were available, at a price. But Rangoon people doubt if the crackdown will last more than a month.

The Big Snow grips America from the great plains to the Gulf of Mexico





Cold comfort: *Firefighting in Boston and (right) trying to keep oranges warm in Florida.*

Worse to come as death toll rises to 270

The death toll in one of the worst American winters of the century has climbed to nearly 270.

There have been 10 days of record low temperatures and forecasters predicted yesterday that more bitterly cold weather can be expected.

About 100 of those whose deaths are attributed to the weather have frozen in their homes and on the streets. In New York the cold has contributed to 14 deaths and this figure includes six people who froze to death on the streets, in the subway or in derlict buildings.

Near Albany, capital of New York state, a girl of two froze to death when she got out of bed on Christmas Eve and wandered outside in her pyjamas.

Her name was Sunshine. Her mother was collecting Christmas presents from the home next door. It was not until Christmas morning that she was missed. They followed her footprints and found her body frozen in a porch. she had gone from door to door tying to get in after the door had locked behind her.

Police said she would not have survived more than 10 minutes in temperatures of minus 10F.

In South Dakota tons of coal were sent to reservations where Indians were burning their furniture to keep warm.

The cold wave covers much of the country from the Great Plains to the Gulf of Mexico and scores of cities have recorded their lowest ever temperatures.

In Miami Florida, the temperature fell to 33f the city's lowest December figure. Througout Florida, Lousiana and Texas there is concern about the citrus crop as organges freeze on trees and green vegetables are blighted. Losses are running into many billions of dollars and thousands of fruit pickers have been thrown out of work.

People in the southern states are suffering particulaly because they are not used to severe winters and freezing temperatures.

A television report yesterday showed the swollen blistered feet of a woman suffering from frost bite in Atlanta, Goergia.

Thoughout the country there has been a spate of fires caused by overloaded heaters and firemen have had to cope with ice as well as fires.

One Lake Erie an icebreaker was battling to free 14 cargo vessels trapped in the ice.

There was a relative respite yesterday in parts of the country as temperature rose above zero for the first time in more than a week. But forecasters said that more very cold air is on its way from North-West Canada.

Cuba may be drawn into Pretoria-Luanda war

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African forces are engaged for the first time in more than two years in extensive fighting with Angolan troops in southern Angola, and there is a risk that the 25,000 Cubans estimated to be in that country could become directly involved.

The fighting was initially described last week by General Constand Viljoen, the chief of the South African Defence Force, as a limited campaign against the guerrilla bases of The South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo).

The aim of the campaign, he said, was to blunt an expected annual rainy-season southward thrust by Swapo guerrillas from their Angolan sanctuary into northern Namibia. Swapo has been fighting for Namibia's independence for the past 17 years.

However, late on Monday, speaking to South African journalists on his return to Pretoria after spending Christmas with his troops, General Viljoen largely confirmed Angolan claims of heavy fighting and accused the Angolans and Cubans of sheltering Swapo.

Swapo was "playing a tortoise-like game", General Viljoen said. When things are quiet, and we are not there, Swapo gets out of its Faplat (Angolan army) shell and moves away, scurrying back when we appear. It's a very tricky situation. But if Fapla gets in the way, we shall certainly shoot.

"We do not like becoming involved with Fapla and Cuban forces and would rather respect them in their areas and expect them to respect our fight against Swapo. We drop leaflets telling them that our argument is with Swapo and not with them, "the general said. But South Africa could not stand by while Swapo benefited from the protection provided by the sophisticated weapons supplied to Fapla by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The general said the operation had begun as long ago as December 6, although reports of heavy fighting only emerged a week ago. "It will go on until we reach our target – to knock Swapo for six and stop plans to infiltrate South West Africa, mainly the Sector 10 Ovambo area," he said.

According to General Viljoen, as many as 1,400 Swapo troops, fresh from retraining in Angolan bases, could be involved in the rainy-season offensive. Seven companies of between 120 and 140 men each are advancing south along four infiltration routes in the central and western regions of southern Angola, he said.

This part of Angola is directly north of the Ovamboland region of Namibia, where there is widespread support for Swapo. From there, if the experience of recent years is any guide, the guerrillas will try to slip eastward through the thick bush of the Kavango region, and then south into the white farmlands around the copper-mining town of Tsumeb.

General Viljoen said the five South African soldiers whose deaths were announced last week had been killed "when a rather large Fapla group ambushed and attacked a platoon involved in a follow-up operation" near the town of Caiundo, just over 100 miles inside Angola in the province of Cuando Cubango. He denied Angolan claims that the platoon had been trying to capture the town.

He also made no mention of the Angolan allegation that the South Africans had occupied the town of Cassinga, more than 150 miles north of the Namibia-Angolan border, and denied that South African aircraft had been shot down during the operation while attacking civilian targets.

General Viljoen did say, however, that Soviet-made Sam 8 missiles had been fired at South African fighter planes, fuelling speculation that the destruction of anti-aircraft missile sites could be one of the main aims of the operation.

Another suggestion is that the South Africans want to punish the Angolans for their brusque rejection of Pretoria's recent offer to disengage its forces over a trial period of 30 days from January 31, 1984, provided Angola undertook to restrain Swapo and Cuban forces

Protest note to Thatcher

Catalans back IRA bombers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Nationalistes d'Esquerra (Left Nationalists), a minority Catalan political organization has sent a letter of protest to Mrs Margaret Thatcher about suggestions that Sinn Fein the political wing of the IRA, should be outlawed after the Harrods bombing. It called such a possibility "a repressive measure which attacks the national freedoms of the Irish people".

According to a communiqué distributed to journalists here the Catalan party also sent a note to Sinn Fein leaders urging them "to continue the struggle for the social, political and nationalist liberties of the Irish people".

Here in Spain, meanwhile, the Justice Ministry is studying whether political encouragement of ETA Basque terrorists is within the law.

Leaders of Herri Batasuna – the left-wing Peoples Unity party which acts as a front for ETA – said at a news conference that ETA attacks on policemen and soldiers could be considered legitimate.

Justice officials are determining whether the remarks were an infringement of the law known as "apology for terrorism".

Speaking for Herri Batasuna, Señor Jon Idigoras said: "ETA's armed actions can be considered legitimate at this time because there are no political and democratic channels through which the aspirations of the Basque people can be realized."

He rejected the statute that gives the Basques autonomous regional government because it did not include the possibilty of the Basque country seceding from Spain. He called the police and the Army "occupation forces".

Another prominent member of the Basque party said: "The Spanish flag is the symbol of oppression. It is not our flag.

Spain shuts airport and discos for safety's sake

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Reacting to recent disasters, the civil aviation authorities closed Barajas airport, Madrid for eight hours yesterday and will do so again today for repairs to runways, taxiways and lighting systems, while the authorities in several Spanish cities have closed dozens of discotheques for alleged breaches of safety regulations.

According to airport sources, the airliner collision and fire on December 7 which took the lives of 93 people, damaged asphalt surfaces and signal lights, making repairs necessary. However, the Spanish Airline Pilots' Association complained immediately after the disaster, that there were defects in the marking and lighting of runways and taxiways which were a cause of the accident.

The discotheques' closure follows a fire in Madrid on December 17 which resulted in 83 deaths. Mayors in many cities have been closing discotheques, cinemas and other places of entertainment which fail to provide adequate safety conditions.

The mayor of the south-eastern city of Murcia is reported to have shut 20 establishments, provoking an angry protest from local businessmen.

Prague attacks Washington's Unesco threat

Vienna (Reuter) – By threatening to leave UNESCO, America was planning either to break the educational, scientific and cultural organization of the UN, or to gain decisive influence over it, Czechoslovakia yesterday claimed.

"The destructive US policy does not end with the announced withdrawal from UNESCO," the Czechoslovak Communist Party daily, *Rude Pravo*, said. Washington's hostility to the UN had been shown in September, when New York and New Jersey authorities refused to let Soviet Aircraft land

Andropov's letter of apology leaves gaps

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov's unprecedented absence from this week's delayed Central Committee plenum has caused anxiety among party officials despite the ailing leader's determined attempt to give a strong lead from behind the scenes.

Officials reportedly believe that while assurances that Mr Andropov's disability is "temporary" may be largely accepted in Russia, the lack of visible Kremlin leadership could seriously affect Moscow's dialogue with the West.

In a speech made in absentia on Monday and published on the front page of *Pravda* yesterday, Mr Andropov apologized for not attending the plenum because of "temporary causes". "I have attentively studied all the materials which underlie the plan for the coming year", he wrote. "I thought a gret deal about them and was preparing to speak and outline some of my ideas".

Observers said that this was intended to give the impression that Mr Andropov had recently recovered but suffered a temporary relapse. An explanation accepted by some Russians. Others were sceptical, however, pointing out that Mr Andropov had not appeared for five months and was clearly seriously ill.

"The Central Committee is not easily persuaded", one Kremlin watcher commented. "It consists of over 300 hard-headed politicians with their eyes on the next succession struggle".

Until last week there were persistent reports that Mr Andropov had convalesced after a kidney operation and would reappear before the plenum, but he failed to do so. The plenum, usually held in November, was delayed for a month to allow time for recovery. It is to be followed today and tomorrow by a Supreme Soviet (Parliament) session on the 1984 budget. It is now thought unlikley that Mr Andropov will be present.

In his speech Mr Andropov sought to maintain the momentum of his drive for efficiency and discipline, referring to management reforms and labour discipline campaigns initiated since he came to power just over a yea ago. He noted "changes for the better", but added: "This is only the beginning".

Mr Andropov said that the 1984 plan would both raise production of consumer goods and "maintain the country's defences at a proper level". Failings in the Soviet system had led to "a certain strain" in drawing up the plan, but the task now was to work hard despite the difficulties – "of which there are many" – and eliminate bottlenecks.

"I have to say bluntly that proper concern for reducing labour costs is not shown in some sectors", he added sternly, in a flash of the old Andropov style of a year ago.

He lashed out at incompetent managers who paid workers undeserved bonuses, at factories which failed to reduce costs by using resources wisely, at planning agency jargon and consumer goods shortages. "Inefficiency and ignorance of real market conditions mean that products are either scarce or pile up unwanted, and this gives rise to popular discontent".

One informed Russian said: "It would have been a powerful and effective speech if delivered in person. But how many in the party will listen to a man who was not there?"

Mr Andropov's speech was not that of a man who is thinking of stepping down, and the promotion of Andropov associates such as Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov and General Viktor Chebrikov seems designed to ensure that his policies are carried out. Mr Vorotnikov, who is only 57, must now be considered a leadership contender in the Andropov mould. With Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, aged 70, the Politburo now numbers 13, and Mr Andropov can probably count on a mathematical majority.

Tass yesterday anounced that the plenum had ended with no important speeches on the second day. Observers had expected a statement on foreign policy – a subject not touched on by Mr Andropov – but it now seems that the Soviet leadership's view of East-West relations will be stated by a senior leader today or tomorrow at the Supreme Soviet.

Leading article, page 11

Lionesses put on the pill to give wildebeeste a sporting chance

From our own correspondent Etosha National Park, Namibia

An over-supply of lions in Namibia's Etosha National Park, one of the world's largest, most varied and perhaps least-known reserves, has given rise to Africa's most unusual experiment in family planning.

Led by Dr Hu Berry, a research biologist, a small team of specialists is hoping to establish that the park's lion population can be controlled by implanting time-release contraceptives in lionesses rather than by the traditional method of culling.

The park takes its name from the Etosha Pan, a bleached expanse of alkaline clay stretching to the horizon and hundreds of feet deep, which occupies more than a fifth of the reserve's 8,530 square miles. The pan is believed to be the dried-out bed of a prehistoric lake.

Driving out along one of the spits jutting into the pan, you can easily imagine yourself a lone explorer on some dead and alien planet. But the pan's wooded southern rim, punctuated by watering places, paradoxically teems with one of the richest and most visible concentrations of wild life in Africa.

Some of that richness is now threatened by man's well-meaning attempts at preservation. A 500-mile-long fence, completed in 1970, surrounds the park, and was intended mainly to prevent animals from straying on to adjacent farmland where they risked being shot.

It also shelters game from the Bitter bush war being fought in Ovamboland to the north between South African forces and guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which has been fighting for 17 years for Nambia's independence from South African rule.

But the fence has also stopped the age-old, seasonal migration of wilderbeest, zebra and other hoofed animals, which as a result of boreholes to provide year-round waterholes in an area prone to drought has further eased the task of hunting lions by creating perfect ambush spots, while an epidemic of anthrax, to which the big cats are immune, has furnished them with an ample supply of carcasses to feed on.

It seems that rain-filled gravel pits, left behind after the building of gravel roads for the benefit of the 50,000 visitors attracted to the park each year, are almost ideal incubators of anthrax bacteria because of the limestone soil.

This is all good news for lions. Most lion cubs in Etosha survive beyond their first year, whereas in more normal conditions at least 75 per cent would be killed off by the rigours of a hunting life. The lion population may now be as high as 500, giving the park the highest predator-to-prey ratio in Africa.

It is bad news for other animals, especially those who cannot stray far from water. The number of blue wildebeest, for example, has dropped from 25,000 in the mid-1950s to only 2,500 today. the Zebra population has also declined.

Putting lionesses on the pill could be part of the answer. In South Africa's Kruger National Park. Dr Berry recalls, some 65 per cent of the entire lion population was shot in the mid-1970s. But within 17 months the number of lions was bigger than ever.

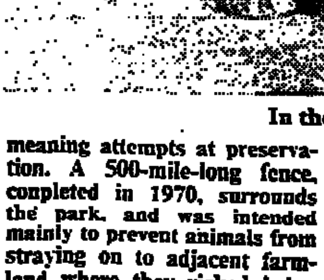
"As a result of this and other experiences we are now very wary of culling predators", Dr Berry says. "So we are testing contraception on lionesses. Contraception is more humane, does not destroy the genetic stock and is reversible".

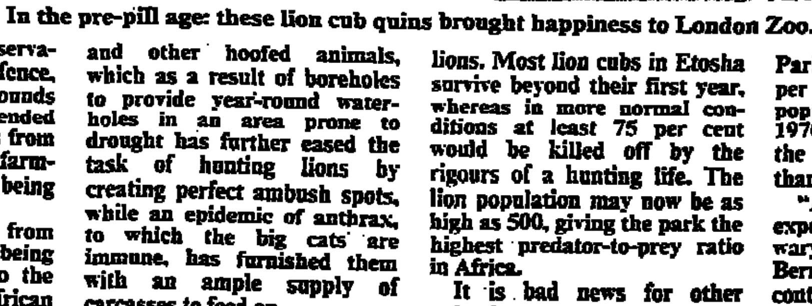
Since July last year ovulation-suppressing capsules have been implanted in the shoulder muscle of 10 lionesses from five prides by Dr Berry and a gynaecologist who comes up from Windhoek, the Namibian capital, for the purpose. Each capsule is reckoned to have a life of two to five years.

The lionesses are first immobilized by an anaesthetizing dart fired from a shotgun. During the implant operation, they are blindfolded to shield their eyes, which stay open, from the sun, and sprayed with water to prevent over-heating as they no longer pant when drugged.

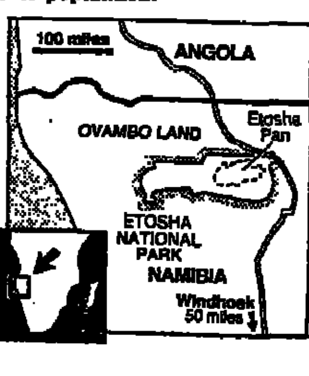
None of the 10 lionesses has had a cub since being treated, and rigorous monitoring has so far failed to reveal any adverse side-effects.

Unfortunately, it seems that cow elephants are too big and dangerous to be amenable to the same treatment, which would require almost a military operation involving a helicopter and ground support. Some 220 elephants had to be shot in Etosah this year because of over-population.





In the pre-pill age: these lion cub quins brought happiness to London Zoo.



Grave problem for China

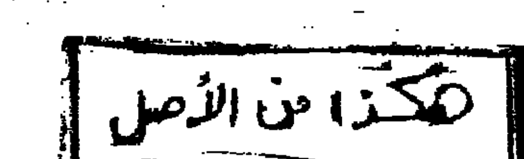
By Tony Samstag

About six million Chinese, the equivalent of the population of Switzerland, die each year, and burying them all would theoretically need 10,000 acres of land and more than 70 million cu ft of timber.

The Chinese government is, accordingly, intensifying its 30-year-old campaign to promote cremation and simplify funeral services, according to Earthscan, the London-based environment and development information agency.

Just over 10 per cent of China' land is cultivated, averaging a quarter-acre for each of its one billion people. "The old burial customs required selecting an auspicious grave site according to portents of wind and water", Earthscan reports. "More often than not good farmland was occupied. In Peking between 1949 and 1964 graves used over 526 acres of fertile fields."

There are about 2,500 crematoria in China which account for 90 per cent of all bodies in the cities, but only 30 per cent nationally.



Help send the Best of British to L.A.

The British Olympic Association relies entirely on voluntary contributions.

Unless £1½ million is raised, in public donations, we will not be able to field a full British team at the 1984 Olympics.

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So here's how we are going to help.

Every time you use the American Express Card at any of the 70,000 hotels, restaurants, shops and services that welcome the Card in the UK between January 1st and April 1st, we'll donate 2p to the British Olympic Appeal.

And when you buy American Express US Dollar Travellers Cheques (especially useful in Los Angeles) we will make a further donation.

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With all this, we're aiming to raise at least £250,000 for the British Olympic Appeal, which will help to send the strongest possible team to Los Angeles, but that's not all.

We'll be organising official fund raising dinners on behalf of the British Olympic Association at hotels that accept the American Express Card, where you'll be able to help the squad get fit while you're well fed.

And we'll be holding a series of competitions to win trips to Los Angeles to watch the Olympic Games.

If you'd like to extend even more help to the British Olympic Appeal, you can become a member of the British Olympic Association by writing to them at 1 Church Row, Wandsworth Plain, London SW18 1EH.

Remember, the more you use the American Express Card (and if you're not yet a Cardmember, our £5 donation to the Olympic effort is another excellent reason to apply), the more you'll be doing for British Olympic hopes.



Helping Britain's Team to the Olympics

The pornographic free-for-all has run out of promise in Sweden. Sex crimes have not diminished, prostitution thrives. But a puritan backlash has begun with vigilantes raiding the porn shops and the rise of a God-loving pop star

End of the non-stop sex show

By Chris Mosey



Maria Johansson spreads the gospel. Right top, pop singer Carola Haggkvist and, above, porn-fighter Karin Söder

Stockholm
The first snowflakes of winter dance in the air to a strange beat. In the futuristic heart of Stockholm – a square called Sergels Torg which is bleakly modern and paved in black and white – Maria Johansson, aged 65, is seated at a portable electric organ playing and singing, slightly off-key, "I have a Friend in Jesus".

Behind her, a monolith of steel in concrete and glass, stands The House of Culture, built like everything else in sight in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The same building extends backwards across a walkway into another towering modern edifice, which until recently housed the Swedish Parliament. This is now empty, waiting to play host to the Stockholm Peace Conference in 1984. In an act of unconscious symbolism, the parliamentarians have withdrawn from this desolate new frontier to their former headquarters on Holy Ghost Island in the city's medieval Old Town.

Maria looks up through watery eyes and smiles. "I have been singing here for 11 years", she says. "There is a need for God's message here – there are so many unhappy people in Sweden."

Three stops away on the Underground lies another of Maria's venues, an older, more human square called Odenplan, where drunks shiver on park benches in the shadow of Gustav Vasa Church and commuters hurry through the gathering darkness to catch buses bound for the suburbs.

Behind the church, just across the street, is a garishly painted red and blue door with the words "Non-Stop Show" stencilled across it. This is no longer true – the show *has* stopped. Sexorama, another desolate new frontier of sorts, has also been abandoned.

A container by the kerbside has been filled with the non-saleable fittings of a club that once lured tourists from all over the world to "Europe's wildest sex show". In a dimly-lit basement the photofit blondes with empty eyes were overdressed if they wore stockings.

Today Sexorama has been gutted by the bailiffs. Such accoutrements that were of value – amplification equipment to back the striptease, flashing lights, mirrors from the private posing rooms, TV sets that once screened raunchy movies in a darkened video saloon, for example – have been confiscated by a state tax collector with the wonderfully appropriate name of Miss Birgitta Prim.

Two women, Miss Prim and Sweden's former Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs Karin Soder, have between them contrived to end the reign of Mr Ulrich Geismar, once dubbed "Sweden's King of Sex" by the nation's tabloid press. Mr Geismar now lives quietly in Spain, where he has been "unavailable for comment" for some time. Miss Prim would like to ask him about the £150,000 she claims he owes in back taxes.

Mrs Soder is just happy about his departure. The last vestiges of Geismar's "kingdom" are the now-padlocked doors of Sexorama and his other property, the more opulent Chat Noir, of which he once boasted on local television that customers included major Swedish multinational companies entertaining foreign buyers. Chat Noir was the top end of the market in a twilight world of sexual fantasy which is being slowly eradicated.

A law drafted by Mrs Soder, which came on to the statute book this year, has so severely curbed the activities of Sweden's sex clubs that most of them have shut up shop. At their peak in the early 1970s there were 14 in Stockholm alone; today there are just two, and one seedy topless "bar", where no alcoholic beverages may be served.

A country that only a decade ago was lauded by liberals the world over for its daring social reforms and sexual liberty has, in the space of relatively few years, gone back to its roots. A narrow puritanism has always been the dormant heart of a basically agrarian society, hurled into the modern age by an industrial revolution which arrived only in the latter half of the last century.

Towards the end of the 1960s and in the early 1970s, before the traumas of recurring energy crises and economic tribulations became commonplace, the future was always only just around the corner, like a shining liberated dream beckoning seductively. Everything seemed possible for those in the vanguard of social change.

Their crusade towards a brave new world that never arrived led, in 1971, to the repeal of the already outdated Law on the Offending of Decency and Morality, which had until the mid-1960s been used by the police to suppress pornography. With its disappearance the floodgates opened.



Ulrich Geismar, the king of sex whose realm is now behind locked doors

Mrs Gina Sundin, originally from Spain, is one of the few survivors. She runs an establishment called Cabaret Nana, an oasis of flashing lights, loud disco music and soundtracks laden with heavy breathing, at the end of an exceptionally grey, dismal street not far from Stockholm's Central Station.

Although her club has picked up many of Ulrich Geismar's former customers, life in a changing society has not been easy. "When I first opened, everything was allowed", she says. "Now they want to forbid it all. Swedes have never really been able to enjoy themselves without suffering from a bad conscience afterwards. Soon there will be more things forbidden in this society than are permitted."

Mrs Soder's law stopped only just short of banning striptease. It outlawed instead "sexually provocative poses". Detective Inspector Torsten Aslund, of the Stockholm vice squad, said: "The law allows striptease and the showing of pornographic films, nothing more." A series of raids and court cases has resulted. "Some of my best customers are policemen nowadays", said Mrs Sundin, "As a taxpayer, I feel I am getting something back for my money."

Curiously, it is often the selfsame sexual liberals of yesteryear who now spearhead the advance of the new puritanism in Swedish society. Mr Hans Nestius, chairman of a peculiarly Swedish organization called the National Association for Sexual Information, which fought for the repeal of the Law on the Offending of Decency and Morality, now bitterly regrets the consequences.

"When we took up the fight against the ban on pornography, the pornography that was around was shoddy, very bad quality. We thought we would bring about a happy, warm, sensual pornography – everything should be free and open", he says.

From his office window in Kungsgatan, Stockholm's equivalent to London's Oxford Street, Mr Nestius now looks out on the H:Son emporium, Sweden's biggest pornographic book shop, lately extended to include private film and video booths and an air-conditioned cinema. Mr Nestius regards it with disgust.

"Pornography doesn't stand for sexual freedom, for openness, for sexual radicalism, as I once maintained myself. It is dark and musty inside a porn shop – there is a lot of shame and guilt there. The men who stand leafing through the merchandise always look dreadfully oppressed."

The arguments the sexual liberals used in the 1960s have nearly all rebounded on them: that pornography and the sex clubs would provide a sexual outlet for the handicapped and the elderly (surveys show that customers are overwhelmingly ordinary, usually married men, most frequently in their thirties or forties); that sex crimes would diminish as repressed sexual energy was given an escape valve (apart from indecent exposure, all such crimes have increased steadily); that prostitution would become a thing of the past (the world's oldest profession still plies its trade).

Nestius, typical of the "New Puritan", sees no irony in his change of heart. He is merely continuing the crusade for sexual freedom, but in a different way. His association's July campaign, titled "Fight for Love", in which he and other members visited the holiday beaches of the Baltic island of Gotland quizzing and advising young Swedes on their sexual habits, was a huge success (certainly a greater success than it would have been at Blackpool, where such "openness" might well have earned Mr Nestius a fat lip).

The New Puritanism has also seen the emergence in Swedish society of the sex vigilante. Groups of militant women carry out night-time raids on porn shops and sex clubs, daubing them with feminist slogans and occasionally harassing customers. It was these women who plastered posters all over Stockholm earlier this year with the registration numbers of kerb-crawling cars and advised people to telephone the licensing authority for the names and addresses of the owners (something the authority is required by law to divulge).

The new mood is no better exemplified than in pop music. Yesterday's idol was blonde Abba vocalist Agnetha Faltskog, who once bounced around the stage with a vitality that earned her the title "sexiest bottom in Europe". Today's is Carola Haggkvist, aged 17, whose stage garb is usually a singularly shapeless white judo costume, and who delights in taking about her belief in God.

Foreigners are frequently caught unaware by the shift in Swedish attitudes. Dennis Hopper arrived to take the leading role in a new British-Swedish coproduction titled *The Inside Man* wearing a "Pornography is Fun" badge, given him by Larry Flint, publisher of *Hustler*, the notorious American men's magazine.

"I gather it no longer is", he said. "I've been getting some strange looks. I'd better get rid of the thing."

moreover...
Miles Kington

Cheese *and* ham, Big Brother

The last time I renewed my TV licence, I decided to round it up to £50 from £46 in order to give the BBC a bit of spare cash. I have always believed the licence fee was far too small, especially when I am being employed by radio, and I sincerely believed that if I paid the bill, and left a £4 tip, it would make the BBC feel better, and the tip might come back to me eventually. So I sent off a cheque for £50.

It came back, marked "incorrect amount". I sent it off again, explaining that it was the correct amount, plus a bit over. It came back again, with a letter telling me that *there was no machinery* for accepting any amount except £46. Back I wrote again, asking in that case how I could donate the extra money to the BBC. The gentleman in Swansea replied, humorously under the circumstances I thought that I should send the money direct to the BBC and that the best man to get in touch with was the Director-General.

This I did not do. Bribery is not a thing I condone, and although my motives would have been of the purest, it would have looked very bad if it ever got out that I was sending cash direct to the top of the BBC, so I decided to keep the money for a rainy day. In any case, one never knows, does one, just what might have happened to the money it might have been used to buy another American programme, or keep Desmond Wilcox on, something I didn't entirely approve of, and then it would have been embarrassing to write and ask for my money back.

The rainy day came sooner than I thought. I was travelling to Bath by Inter-City 125, and British Rail have now tinted the windows so that every day on Inter-City looks like a rainy day. I went to the buffet. I dithered between buying a toasted ham sandwich and buying a toasted cheese sandwich. Eventually I compromised by asking for a toasted ham *and* cheese sandwich.

"Can't do that, I'm afraid, sir."

"Haven't got the ingredients?" I asked.

"Oh, yes, we've got the ham and cheese all right, but we haven't got a price for a ham and cheese sandwich. Sorry, sir."

It was the TV licence situation all over again. *He hadn't got the machinery.* There was a little regulation which stopped him from solving the problem, even though he could quite easily have improvised round it. And this situation crops up again and again in British life.

Personally, I feel it's because we haven't got a written constitution. Not being governed by a constitution is always said to be a good thing, and no doubt it is considering the constitutions that some nations have landed up with, but it has to be compensated for somewhere, and we compensate by having millions of tiny regulations.

Because we feel instinctively that they are silly, we tend to by-pass them wherever possible. The most notable example of this is the work-to-rule syndrome. Whenever trade unionists want to protest against something, one of their first weapons is threatening to work to rule – in other words, threatening to obey all the regulations which they should be obeying all along. Behaving normally is seen to be an exceptional state of affairs.

Meanwhile, without realizing it perhaps, we have all become used to winking at regulations and passing by on the other side. George Orwell had a word for it. He called it doublethink. When we talk about doublethink, we like to see it on a grand scale and think of Russia, where they talk communism in public and think other thoughts in private. But on a petty scale, we are just as guilty of doublethink. Big Brother isn't watching us: he too is working out ways of getting round the rules.

Incidentally, Orwell also forcast that Big Brother's. It's George Orwell's preview- by 1984, looking down at us. Well, there is a face looking down at us as we go into the famous year, and a name that is on everybody's lips, but it isn't Big Brother's. It's George Orwell's, previewing a thousand productions and features. I wonder if he would have been amused.

A treasure house built on Johnson's baby powder

The fine art of marrying well

Mrs Seward Johnson, Basia to her friends, is forming a stupendous art collection. She spent £990,000 at Sotheby's in July on a French lacquer cabinet, the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of furniture. This was the first time that she was rumbled by the press as an auction purchaser, which is pretty good going since she and her husband, who died in May at the age of 87, have been quietly buying at top prices for 14 years.

The collection is housed in the pillared and porticoed Palladian villa that they built on their 140-acre estate just outside Princeton in the US. It was completed in 1976. "The local papers have been terrible," says Basia. "They even had helicopters fly over the house to spy on us. They have said it has 50 rooms but actually there are very few."

She explains that they were deceived because she likes to have very large rooms so that she can hang her tapestries – she prefers Flemish sixteenth-century courtly scenes. "Besides, I like to have air." For furniture she prefers the French eighteenth century and the English Adam style. "And George III," she adds, "for the library bookcases." However if something is nice enough she will buy a piece outside her favourite periods. She spent £15,120 on a pair of early eighteenth century English *Petit point* embroidered cushions at Christie's Godmersham sale in June.

Mrs Johnson had never spoken to the press before. "Please, no photographs," she said to me. "I don't want people to recognize me when I go around. I have many enemies – I think they envy me."

They would have very good reason for envy. She arrived in America from Poland in 1968 with $100 and married into the Johnson's baby powder fortune. It is a vast pharmaceutical business and Mr Seward Johnson left her around $300m at his death.

There were six children by his two previous marriages, his widow explains, and he settled $160m on each of them about ten years ago on the understanding that this was their share and they should expect no more at his death. "I had made friends with all of them," she says sadly. "And they all came to the house. But 24 hours after the will was opened they were all contesting it. Now I can spend nothing until the legal actions have been settled."

From poor immigrant to museum-builder

"Nothing" on Mrs Johnson's lips is a relative term. As she passed through London recently on her way to Rome, she commissioned a bell to be cast at the Whitechapel Foundry for the chapel she is building in the woods near her house. The chapel is based on a design by Vignola, the sixteenth century Italian architect, and features a square exterior, circular interior and dome. The purpose of the chapel is to house Mrs Johnson's collection of religious art and it is to be opened to the public. Beside the chapel a bell tower is to rise.

On one side of the big bronze bell, the death of Mr Seward Johnson this year is to be commemorated, on the other the foundation of Solidarity in Poland in 1980. Mrs Johnson, aged 64, was born in Poland and is a passionate Polish patriot. Her husband came to share her love of the country which they visited many times during their 14-year marriage.

Polish workmen built the pavilion in the Johnson's park, and Polish craftsmen made the magnificent stone and wrought iron baroque gateway

On either side of these gates Mrs Johnson intends to build a public art gallery. One is to house her collection of Renaissance art, the other her collection of Greek and Roman antiquities.

Mrs Johnson is unostentatious in appearance. She doesn't go in for jewelry, "but I like nice clothes" from Paris and Rome. Her soft brown hair has been simply dressed by a top hairdresser. She has a stocky Polish build and exudes vitality.

After completing a BA and MA in art history at Breslau University, she managed to obtain a visa for a five-day visit to Rome in 1967. Once there, she persuaded the American embassy to allow her an immigrant visa. In 1968 she left Rome for New York, where she knew not a soul.

She disliked New York, where the Polish immigration committee had booked her into a cheap hotel. Knowing virtually no English, she decided that housework or cooking were her only hopes for a job. "I thought I was a good cook," she laughs. She got a job in the Johnson's country home.

"At that time Mrs Johnson liked me immediately," she says, somehow managing to pronounce the name in just that way that a servant refers to her mistress. This was the reigning Mrs Johnson, whose place she was to take.



French lacquered cabinet once owned by Louis XVI that fetched a record price at Sotheby's in July

"I didn't know how to cook American cooking and many things went wrong. So Mrs Johnson said I could look after the children and do housework. I was very happy."

But a life of domestic drudgery was not what she had in mind. After ten months with the Johnsons as a living-in servant, she had saved $4,000. She rented a little flat in New York, and planned to go to college and learn English.

Basia was promised "help for a better life"

And then something extraordinary happened. She received a message from some Polish friends that Mr Johnson was very anxious to see her. He sent a car to collect her and bring her to his office. "I came not knowing what is going on. He said, 'I fell in love with you when you were in our house working.'

"I never expect it, because we could hardly talk to each other. Sometimes I took his tea upstairs. And I remember at Cape Cod one time I had a beautiful bathing suit I bought for $20 and I was passing by his boat on the beach and he looked at me. His daughter Jennifer told me later that the boat was nearly crashing because I was on the beach."

According to Basia, the millionaire now told her: "I like to help you with a better life. I like to send you to school of diving because I am very interested in the ocean."

Seward Johnson confided another secret to his former servant. "He said, 'My dream – not only the ocean – but always my dream was to have an art collection. I don't dare collect because I don't have the right education.'" He and Basia went to an art dealer where Basia was able to demonstrate her expertise. They sealed the beginning of their romance with the purchase of a Mondrian, a Monet and a Picasso.

Johnson got a divorce from his wife and in 1971, he and Basia married. "We had already a lot of paintings by that time," says Basia.

Along with art collecting, the couple pursued Johnson's love of oceanography. They established the Harbor Branch Foundation at Fort Pierce in Florida.

Basia Johnson looks on her inheritance as enormous fun, but also, she says, as a sacred trust to the memory of her husband. "I know my husband's dreams," she says. "That is why he wanted to leave it all to me."

Geraldine Norman

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 233)

ACROSS
1 Pronouncement (6)
4 Serious crime (6)
7 Live under canvas (4)
8 Kill a tenth (8)
9 Large area (8)
12 Run away (3)
15 Newspaper chief (6)
16 Plywood layer (6)
17 Ardent admirer (3)
19 Deliberate destruction (8)
24 Hems in (8)
25 Troubled state (4)
26 Small cupboard (6)
27 Origin (6)

DOWN
1 Italian leader (4)
2 Comrade (9)
3 Telephone computer link (5)
4 Concentrate (5)
5 Swelling (4)
6 Pietermaritzburg Province (5)
10 Waste (5)
11 Perspiration (5)
12 Cargo transporter (9)
13 Enclosed concrete areas (4)
14 Land slave (4)
18 Year's record (5)
20 Valuable property (5)
21 Haven (5)
22 Compassionate exclamation (4)
23 Excessively sentimental (4)

SOLUTION TO No 232.
ACROSS: 1 Cuckoo 5 Baby 8 Unify 9 Entered 11 Penchant 13 Fail 15 Vehemence 18 Acne 19 Slapdash 22 Chapati 23 Cairn 24 Jerk 25 Nation
DOWN: 2 Union 3 Key 4 One in a million 5 Both 6 Barrage 7 Dumps 10 Dolt 12 Haha 14 Snip 15 Vantage 16 Talc 17 Chink 20 Amigo 21 Balk 23 Cut

WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Homeward bound

It has become crazily anti-feminist to suggest that the home is the most important place in the world. To say so is now to imply, by some sleight of the language, that one believes women ought to be home-based and look after their own children. And of course, I *am* saying that, but not exclusively.

Years ago I remember being told by a Viennese savant of great years that there was no more deprived woman in the world than the modern western housewife, marooned in a house with nothing to do, or sharing her imprisonment with badly bored children. She had no part in her husband's working life. She would soon relinquish her children to the school system, and probably do so with relief.

Indeed, it is much of the poignancy of the woman in Noel Coward's *Brief Encounter* that her life was so confined to the Boots, the Kardomah with the string band, and the railway tea room. Hers was indeed the Barbara Pym world of minute detail and small excitements. Unable to be adulterous, she returns to dull old hubby and her nice house and accepts her lot. Such a woman – they are with us still as married men seem to enjoy permissiveness more than married women – runs a high risk of losing touch with the world, to the point where she is as solitary as a nun.

Yet she probably finds more tranquility than modern working women, behind whom lurk considerable guilt about the quality of their mothering and their womanhood. I say this not merely because I detect or surmise it, but because honest and ambitious women have told me so.

My old Viennese described a peasant life he had seen all over east and middle Europe. It had its failings, but it had economic and domestic equality between men and women. Each was vital to the household economy, and knew it. I have worked with middle-aged peasants in France. A man did as much cooking as his wife let him, and rode a slender, athletic racing bike. The woman was a powerful companion to him in the fields. He did, it is true, most of the work on the tractor. But she liked driving it more than he did.

However you cannot be a peasant farmer in Greenwich or Grimsby and Celia Johnson's stoicism is somehow inappropriate now. And so the nanny industry flourishes. Some women have broken out of the home, and the only surprising thing is that too few of them have yet realized that in doing so they are only mimicking the disastrous mistakes of their menfolk. They have renounced doing and exchanged it for earning.

Believing, as I do, that modern methods of economic production – especially because they depend on a profligate use of natural resources and on misconceptions of what "growth" is – are shortly going to be redundant, it becomes important to develop alternative patterns of work and the provision of goods and services. It seems to me likely that among the changes will be a huge decline in earning power, and thus of the willingness and ability to pay taxes, and finally of the state's capacity to provide professional services.

I have a feeling that a great deal of relaxed, lateral, hard thinking is going to have to be done over the next few years. Some of it will stem from an understanding that computers make sitting in offices as redundant as it is boring and expensive in commuter energy. Out of it will come a new understanding of the amateur, the home-based, the voluntary. Fewer women will be longing for the day when they can abandon their children in favour of the sharp-edged briefcase. And fewer men will conceive the briefcase as their lot. A woman's place is very often in the home – and so is a man's.

Richard North

Castaways come in from the cold

Cindy Buxton and Annie Price have braved war and isolation to become two of Britain's leading wildlife film-makers, as Nancy Mills reports

When Cindy Buxton and Annie Price arrived on the island of South Georgia in the South Atlantic in October 1981, all they had on their minds were king penguins – the three feet high variety identifiable by the swatch of red under the chin. They did not know they would get caught in the middle of a war between Argentina and Britain over the Falkland Islands. South Georgia, population 40,000 penguins, is 800 miles beyond the Falklands, but because it is a British island, it became a war objective of some value.

Argentina tried and failed to capture the two English film-makers. "The Argentinians sent a message saying they were coming to get us", Buxton recalls, "so we kept looking over our shoulders. We heard a lot of firing, but we were so isolated they could only have reached us by air or by sea. It turned out their two helicopters were shot down, and one of their ships was destroyed."

At the same time, though, the two women had good reason to be afraid. However, stranded as they were, they coolly continued to mingle with the penguins. The Antarctic winter was approaching and food was running short as the conflict raged over the horizon. Finally, eight months after they arrived on the barren island and one month longer than they planned to stay, Buxton and Price were taken out by Royal Navy helicopter.

Brushing aside their "war" experiences, they returned to England to put together *Stranded on South Georgia*. The programme was shown in Britain as well as in countries as far apart as Finland, Japan and Yugoslavia. It is the wildlife programme that they intended to make, with a rumble of war in the background.

Buxton and Price specialize in photographing strange beasts in faraway places. They travel to isolated environments, set up camp for an average of six months and film what they see, working under contract to the British company, Survival Anglia Television. Survival Anglia uses about a dozen teams around the world and Buxton-Price is the only all-woman team.

"Sometimes being a woman can be a slight disadvantage", Buxton acknowledges, "but every year it gets easier and easier because you can show your latest film. It was a bit of a struggle at the beginning, but you just go on until you get what you want."

Buxton, in her early 30s, is quite persistent. When the British Antarctic Survey Commission told her South Georgia was not a place for women, she would not take no for an answer. "The Americans have a number of women scientists working in their Antartic bases", she says, "but the British have only men in their teams. It took me nine months to persuade them." At the time, she and Price were already filming in the Falklands.

"They had the old-fashioned idea that the conditions were too harsh and severe for us", she says. "I think they finally said yes because they got fed up with me telephoning them all the time. But once they'd agreed, they gave us lots of help and advice on such subjects as when to cross glaciers and how to read clouds. The *weather can change so rapidly.*"



Annie Price, left, and Cindy Buxton. They continued to film wildlife as the Falklands was war raged around them

South Georgia is one of the most isolated, unwelcoming places on earth. With an average temperature of 32F (0C) with 30 mph winds, it is a perfect environment for penguins and elephant seals.

During their stay, Buxton and *Price lived in an eight-feet square* hut two miles from a huge king penguin colony. "It was probably the hardest shoot I've ever done, as far as conditions were concerned", Buxton says. She spent her first eight film-making years in the heat of Africa. "But the wildlife was tame and approachable, so that part was easy."



Cindy Buxton among the black browd albatross of South Georgia. "Neither of us had worked in conditions like this before. But the wildlife was tame and approachable"

Price took all the still pictures while Buxton shot the documentary footage. They shared the daily chores, including the melting of snow for drinking water. "Neither of us had worked in conditions like this before", Buxton says. "There was a team of scientists stationed just 15 miles from us, but we couldn't reach them by land." The women were totally alone, except for the 40,000 penguins, hundreds of elephant seals and some albatross.

Buxton and Price have worked together for three years. Before that, Buxton shot documentaries on her own. "Being alone didn't bother me, but sometimes now I wonder how I coped." She finally decided she needed an assistant when she began making plans in 1979 to film in the bleak Falklands. She called Price, a school friend she had not seen for 10 years, who became interested in photography while working for an advertising agency in London.

'The Argentinians said they were coming to get us'

"I do get a lot of people approaching me, but most of them I'd never consider", says Buxton. "I didn't want to take someone who would get fed up after four weeks, once the novelty wore off, and be dying to get home. I went to Annie because I knew her, because she was a photographer and because I thought she might enjoy going to the places I liked. I explained the conditions and told her that in no way could she change her mind and go home. I told her the worst."

The pair have been filming green turtles, sea birds and native wildlife on Ascension Island, a volcanic island in the South Atlantic with a population of about 1,000 – and, with its tropical temperatures, quite a change from South Georgia.

Of her film-making philosophy, Buxton says, "I choose my own subjects. I'll visit the location if I can. Then I'll write out the basic story line of the film or films. Hopefully, there will be more than one. Then I work out a budget and schedule and take it to Survival Anglia. If they like my proposal, they'll finance it."

Buxton has worked for Anglia for almost 12 years, initially as an independent film-maker, but for the past eight years under contract. The company has never turned down any of her proposals, and already she has the go-ahead for a project in south-west Spain starting in September 1984.

"In that part of Spain", she says, "there are these massive, great sand dunes, 100 feet tall, that move at a rate of 20 feet a year. They smother the pine forest and then gradually move on. The forests have 50 or 60 years to recover until the next sand dune comes along.

"I think there's a really good story there."

Stranded on South Georgia *will be broadcast on the ITV network on Sunday.*

FIRST PERSON

Peter Morris

My lease of life

A year ago I had the largest of the three lobes of my right lung removed after a malignant tumour the size of a cricketball was discovered lodged there. To mark the first anniversary of the operation, I got out my bike and cycled 12 miles to a pool, whereupon I dismounted and swam a mile. I was fairly pleased with my performance; I had hoped to crawl the mile but, in the event, had to resort to the less breathtaking breaststroke.

At the time of my operation I feared I had pushed my last pedal and crawled my last length. The physiotherapists had no information about the physical capabilities of people with one or one and a bit lungs. I remember moaning about the prospect to a night sister during a nocturnal chat. "Well," she said, "what did you do before you started all this swimming and cycling?" "I smoked, I replied. Which was true. I had stubbed out the last of my 60 fags a day two years earlier and had taken up the physical exercise to monitor my progress. The goddess of health has a funny sense of humour.

Whatever, I've proved to my own satisfaction that cancer is not necessarily the end, either of life or an active physical existence. One big qualification needs to be made: I was one of the lucky ones. My primary tumour was discovered at the relatively young age of 39. Lung cancer is the most lethal cancer to which men are prone (in the case of women, it's breast cancer). One of the main reasons why is because it is often not tracked down until the primary has seeded secondary growths elsewhere in the body.

It is coping with the psychological rather than the physical aftermath which is the most difficult. I put a brave face on it but I'm a cancerphobe all the same. Each time I suspect a recrudescence of the symptoms, I panic inside. My chief symptom, unusually so, was night fever; this is more commonly associated with TB rather than cancer. Now, if ever I wake up and feel the slightest bit damp anywhere, it's the shakes and trembles.

The other sensation which provokes mild frenzy is lethargy. Now, before the doctors found otherwise, I thought I was suffering from old age, prematurely so. Increasingly, in the months leading up to the day of diagnosis, I felt more and more washed-out and torpid.

The only antidote I knew of was strenuous physical exercise. Jerking awake, I would leap upon my bike and pedal off maniacally towards the hills. It worked. For an hour or so after dismounting, I felt as fresh and new as toothpaste. Thereafter, inevitably, the torpor would creep back to make its presence felt again. I know now that it was anaemia induced by the cancer rather than senility from which I was suffering.

One entirely new sympton I suffer from which did not afflict me before is guilt. It has been caused by exposure to the alternative approach to cancer school. Notwithstanding the fact that no trials whatsoever have been conducted to test the carrot-eating claims of the alternative school, I have found their contentions that people who get cancer are somehow personally responsible irrestible.

One (by which I mean me) searches around for some explanation as to why the man up the road who smoked so much he had to have a cowl fitted to his head, enjoys disgustingly good health whilst somebody else (me again) goes down with cancer. Enough of this introspection. I must get up to the pool to start training for my second anniversary swim: one and a half miles? Two miles? I hear a warning in my ear to take it carefully. Knowing my luck, it won't be cancer that'll see me off, but a heart attack during some forthcoming celebratory swim.

DIARY OF A JOB HUNTER

In which Sarah Foot, Exeter University 1980-83, BA 2:1 History, takes a temporary job in a theatre and declines a career in music

Working in a theatre can afford periods of inactivity and solitude. I have welcomed this. With one brother embracing the Christmas spirit with such vengeance that he transported a large tree through the house up to his bedroom, and the other brother possibly creating more uproar in opting out of Christmas altogether, life at home has afforded neither.

During the week of pre-Christmas dress rehearsals I was posted at the stage door. Initially I was not very happy. Wandering around an empty theatre, unlocking deserted rooms – I sincerely hoped they were deserted so early in the morning – was as unnerving as switching on the hot water. Another *Hansel and Gretel* recruit had instructed me to climb to the top of the theatre, enter the workshop and find either the red or the green switch; new to the work herself she was not sure which. On seeing my look of horror she assured me I would know immediately whether I had chosen incorrectly. Thereafter I was to spend the day sitting by the stage door.

Since I sat there in virtual isolation I did begin to wonder whether there were two stage doors. My main contact with the outside world was a technician. His was not a particularly talkative nature. Having informed me that I would be extremely lonely – rather an understatement – he only paused to comment on my continued existence: "Still there?" and to enlighten me on the latest weather developments: "Still cold."

At first I was highly industrious. I wrote letters, read the papers, made numerous abortive attempts at crosswords, finished a book – reading as opposed to writing it (I had the time but lacked inspiration). Unfortunately I could not persist in such commendable activities. The poor lighting and warm atmosphere in my cubby hole meant that by mid-afternoon I had invariably degenerated into a state of dormancy and only revived to consume sufficient Yorkie bars to sustain convoys of lorry drivers.

This was no preparation for "front of house" work, which demanded periods of rather frenzied activity when loneliness was not a problem. A delicate looking girl had informed me she was happiest in the box office where she felt protected from the public. I have a more stalwart appearance and was therefore the better qualified to sell ice-creams at children's matinees. I would not make a teacher. Confronted by hands thrusting limp pound notes upon me, all of us frantically searching for the desired flavour in time for the next act, I felt a little vulnerable standing up to the youngsters' enthusiasm.

I, too, used to be particularly partial to ice-cream but having had to "do the pick-up", a technical term for collecting rubbish, I have lost all interest. It was quite intriguing to discover the phenomenal quantities and varieties of cans, chocolates and biscuits consumed during one performance, but this is no job for the fastidious – ice-cream is particularly sticky when melted.

Emptying ashtrays is worse, as they are made in what can only be described as the most idiotic design. When I tipped them upside down all the ash stayed in. Seeing me vigorously shaking ashtrays, one gentleman did offer to assist me. I think he feared for his jacket. He was a musician and played a horn of some sort. *He told me how very,* very happy he was as a musician and indeed, why didn't I become one too? This was somewhat tactless, for *I was standing there with one of* those great big dustbin bags at my feet, my obligatory black outfit stylishly spattered with ash and ice-cream.

At least I could sell the ice-creams. The selling technique of the ushers was held up for criticism, since not one of us sold a *Hansel and Gretel* record or cassette and we could not be said to have been doing a roaring trade in the gingerbread. One night I only sold a single packet of Handy Andies. This gentleman intended to "weep profusely" throughout the performance. I think he must have muddled the story or come to the wrong theatre as *Hansel and Gretel* ends perfectly happily. (He was not alone in his confusion, for I was asked who in fact was Engelbert Humperdinck and wasn't he supposed to be performing?)

Since I now know the story extremely well and can also sing a number of the tunes, I did feel that it was unnecessary for my brothers to provide me with a joint present of a *Hansel and Gretel* record. Indeed, I have done rather well this Christmas as I was also given a book compiled of amusing and instructive rejection letters. I wish I had thought of the idea first, for not lacking in material myself I could have written the book while sitting by the stage door.

Sarah Foot

Famine and feast

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

With eight of the twelve days of Christmas still to go I prescribe *hysterical water* for the cook and *surfeit water* for those who have tarried too long at the groaning board. And if neither of these is sufficiently restorative, the only remedy may be a couple of days on a diet of *soop meager* and *grateful pudding*.

To make hysterical water, wrote Hannah Glasse in 1747: "Take Redony, Roots of Sovage, Seeds of wild Parsnips, of each two Ounces, Roots of single Piony four Ounces, of Mysletoe of the Oak three Ounces, heat all these together, and add to them a quarter of a Pound of dried Mellipedes, pour on these three Quarts of Mugwort-water, and two Quarts of Brandy, let them stand in a close Vessel eight Days, then distil it in a cold Still posted up. You may draw off nine Pints of Water and sweeten it to your Taste. Mix all together, and bottle it up."

Dried millipedes indeed. I fancy they would be more likely to induce hysterics than to cure them. Mind you, her surfeit water, based on herbs, spices and four gallons of French brandy, must have been more efficacious than the recipe which precedes it, a heartbreaking list of the 20 roots, 17 flowers and 19 seeds which went into the making of *Plague-Water*.

Distilling was only one of many arts necessary to the mistress of an eighteenth century household, and it occupies just two pages of Hannah Glasse's famous book *The Art of Cookery Made Plain And Easy*. In the century before Isabella Beeton, Hannah Glasse was immensely popular and her book was reprinted many times.

Hannah Glasse, née Allgood, eloped in her teens and came to London from the north of England. She must have been a formidably energetic as well as spirited woman. Not only did she write her pioneering cookery book, but also she bore several children, and had a scheme to market a patent medicine called Daffy's Elixir, all in addition to her work as habitmaker to the Princess of Wales.

When *The Art of Cookery* first appeared, its authorship was attributed only to "A Lady", and Doctor Johnson claimed, wrongly, that it had been written by a man. But despite the success of her work, Hannah Glasse did not profit greatly by it. She lost copyright of the book when she was declared bankrupt in 1754.

The large format first edition of 1747 was the most beautiful, and good copies, rare today, fetch over £3,000. Next best, and exceptional value, I think, at £22.50, is the new facsimile reprint published by Prospect Books.*

Students of old texts quickly become familiar with oddities of terminology, method and spelling which baffle readers new to their ways. The Prospect Books' reprint has a helpful glossary which is both scholarly, and as readable as Hannah Glasse's own words.

"If I have not wrote in the high, polite Stile, I hope I shall be forgiven; for my Intention is to instruct the lower Sort, and therefore I must treat them in their own Way", she said. "For example; when I bid them lard a Fowl, if I should bid them lard with large Lardoons, they would not know what I meant: But when I say they should lard with little Pieces of Bacon, they know what I mean. So in many other Things in Cookery, the great Cooks have such a high Way of expressing themselves that the poor Girls are a Loss to know what they mean ..."

French chefs get the other side of her tongue. "A *Frenchman,* in his own Country, would dress a fine Dinner of twenty Dishes, and all genteel and pretty, for the Expence he will put an *English* Lord to for dressing one Dish. ... So much is the blind folly of this Age, that they would rather be impos'd on by a *French* Booby, than give encouragement to a good *English* Cook!"

So, what changes?

Soup meager, mentioned earlier, comes in the chapter on dishes for dinners served on the church's fast days. "Take half a Pound of Butter, put it into a deep Stew-pan, shake it about, and let it stand till it has done making a Noise; then have ready six middling Onions peeled, and cut small, throw them in, and shake them about. Take a Bunch of Salary clean washed, and picked, cut it in Pieces half as long as your Finger, a large Handful of Spinage clean washed, and picked, a good Lettice clean washed, if you have it, and cut small, a little Bundle of Parsley chopped fine; shake all this well together in the Pan for a quarter of an Hour, then shake in a little Flour, stir all together, and pour into the Stew-pan two Quarts of boiling Water; take a handful of dry hard Crust, throw in a Tea Spoonful of beaten Pepper, three Blades of Mace beat fine, stir all together, and let it boil softly half an Hour; then take it off the Fire, and beat up the Yolks of two Eggs, and stir in, and one Spoonful of Vinegar. Pour it into the Soop-dish, and send it to Table. If you have any green Peas, boil half a Pint in the Soop for Change."

I don't think that the omission of salt was what Hannah Glasse meant by meagre. It is missing from a number of the recipes, many of which can be made today just as she wrote them and with no further explanation.

However, not many households today would need *A Grateful Pudding* of the size made with these instructions: "Take a Pound of fine Flour, and a Pound of white Bread grated, take eight Eggs, but half the Whites, beat them with a Pint of new Milk, then stir in the Bread and Flour, and a Pound of Raisins stoned, and a Pound of Currans, half a Pound of Sugar, a little beaten Ginger, mix well together, and either bake or boil it. It will take three Quarters of an Hour's baking. Put Cream in instead of Milk, if you have it, it will be an Addition to the Pudding."

The result, as you may imagine, has the texture of very plain cake, and the suggested addition of cream, containing more fat than milk, improves it considerably. Half an hour in a moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) is enough for a pudding made with quarter quantities of the ingredients. Bake the mixture in a round, deep-sided tin about 20cm (8inches) diameter.

**The book comes in three bindings. The standard edition in a grey cloth binding costs £22.50; quarter leather £32.50; and half leather with marbled boards £47.50. Stockists include the David Mellor kitchen equipment shops in London and Manchester. Inquiries to Prospect Books, 45 Lamont Road, London SW10 0HU.*

THE TIMES DIARY

Dobson's choice

Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, has written a starchy letter to the Prime Minister suggesting that the venue of the next world economic summit, to be held next June, should be switched from Lancaster House "to somewhere in Hackney or Tower Hamlets so that those presiding over the current world recession can observe at first hand the disastrous consequences of what is happening to the worst-off people in our capital city." He also suggests that "all concerned, instead of staying at public expense in lush West End luxury hotels, lodge instead in the bed and breakfast hotels used by London local authorities to house families made homeless by the policies of your own Government." Mr Dobson said he made the suggestion because "world leaders live in a cocoon, going from five star hotel to VIP lounge to private plane". One wonders, though, whether living in Tower Hamlets for a bit would give them a true picture about the lives of the less fortunate since its residents include Dr and Mrs David Owen and Janet Street Porter.

In confidence

The computer sub-committee of the Commons Services Committee is finding its job hard going. Earlier this month a trip to the United States and Canada to research information technology was cancelled after accusations of junketing. And the committee is encountering fierce resistance to anything that might bear the dreaded label "up-to-date". To computerize the House of Commons would mean MPs sharing basic information so that, for instance, some constituents' problems and the answers to them could be stored in a memory bank. Sadly, the committee reports in its minutes of evidence that 66 per cent of MPs questioned opposed a new system on offer, on the grounds that "members always suspect each other; members are jealous of one another and the House of Commons is not a commercial organization".

● **A visitor lost in the rambling corridors of County Hall thought the GLC had totally taken leave of its senses when he came across a sign directing him to "Alternative Gentlemen's".**

Moved to tears

A colleague who planned to move into a new house in Buckinghamshire over Christmas was shocked to discover an old deed of covenant relating to the property. Originally imposed by a brewery anxious to protect a pub – long since disappeared – next door, it prohibits "the manufacture, sale or consumption of alcohol on the premises". His relief when his solicitor discovered that the prohibition could not be legally enforced and that Christmas could be celebrated in the traditional Fleet Street manner was profound.

BARRY FANTONI



'As a sign of respect, our Lil is wearing her hairnet at half-mast'

Easy buck

It is the season of the year when certain privileged people, including the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor of London, and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, receive a good-sized piece of venison under the Queen's Warrant. The custom goes back to 1100 AD, although these days the recipients are charged £6.50 for the privilege. This still makes the venison the cheapest in town: the average weight of the "gift" is 14lb, while the retail price of venison at Sainsbury's is £3 a lb.

That figures

The Civil Service's Management and Personnel Office broke new ground in its annual report on public bodies for 1983, when it produced figures on the number of men and women appointed to the boards of nationalized industries during this year. The figures are: Male appointments: 165. Female appointments: 4.

Saumur, aye

In his new book, *The Illustrated Winespeak: Ronald Searle's Wicked World of Winetasting*, the cartoonist attacks the uninspired vintner-babble of brokers attempting "to enlighten the baffled consumer regarding the more esoteric aspects of, say, Rotterdam rouge" with inspired drawings illustrating their verbal contortions. The book, which has gone into its fourth printing since October, is about to be published by the Japanese, who once made the author a prisoner-of-war. The question is: how do descriptions like "overripe coupled with some tartness" or "lots of body, but supple" translate into Japanese?

PHS

Let's ease this bed of nails

by Alfred Morris

Christmas would not be Christmas without hard-luck stories with happy endings. This is a brief story about a happy ending with a cruel twist.

A Bristol woman was severely burned in a fire and needed a skin graft to her back. She and her husband exist on supplementary benefit, and he applied for a special payment to help buy a foam rubber mattress to ease her pain at night.

In support of the claim, he wrote: "The skin is very tender and easily hurt. She finds the springs on her present mattress put severe pressure on her back. My wife has been sleeping very badly because of the pain . . . and urgently needs a springless mattress to avoid further deterioration of her back."

With assistance from the Child Poverty Action Group, the claim became an important test case. It went to a tribunal of three social security commissioners (the equivalent, in social security cases, of the Court of Appeal).

Arguing strongly against the claim, the solicitor for the DHSS's benefit officer said the mattress could not be paid for because the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976 excluded all medical or similar requirements. The tribunal upheld the claim, however, on the grounds that the exclusion applied only to the *weekly* requirements of a claimant, and not to *single* payments for unmet special needs.

This happy outcome overturned not just the present Government's interpretation of the law, but that of successive governments. The family's pleasure must have been increased by the knowledge that the tribunal's ruling would help in many other cases of avoidable hardship.

One such case was that of an 80-year-old Clevelend woman with terminal cancer. She claimed a single payment to buy a high-backed chair, as she could no longer sit in her own chairs without pain, but was turned down. Help should now readily be available in cases like hers, but this was not to be.

The tribunal's ruling that single payments for medical needs were allowable was reversed by amending Government regulations. While the pen that nullified the tribunal's decision was that of a DHSS minister, the hand was the Chancellor's. And, as with the swingeing cut in housing benefits and this year's £60m "saving" in invalidity pensions for the long-term sick and disabled, the beneficiaries will be Britain's richest taxpayers.

How many people were wrongly refused single payments under the 1976 Act before the law was changed? And is the Government now prepared, in the cause of elementary justice, to review all claims for medical or similar needs that were turned down *before* it changed the law?

Ministers cannot pretend the money is not available. Norman Tebbit spent £39,000 publicizing the compensation available to people who broke their contracts of employment by refusing to join a trade union, while Michael Heseltine earmarked £1m to campaign for "more positive" attitudes to nuclear arms. These are good enough precedents for the DHSS to follow now.

Supplementary benefit, as the benefit of last resort, surely ought to meet urgent needs where there is no alternative source of assistance. In these two cases, the NHS could not help; nor did the local authority. Yet a woman was in preventable pain and had a need which a caring society should have met.

So from where should such needs be met? The question is all the more urgent as provision for the NHS grows smaller, and as cuts in local government spending leave more and more disabled people without the help to which they are entitled under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

Never was a resource of last resort for unmet and urgent need more necessary than it is today. For it makes no sense to deny people help without which they can very soon find themselves in hospitals or other institutions, at far greater cost to the taxpayer and ratepayer alike. It reveals a gap in social provision as self-defeating as it is inhumane.

The author, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, was Minister for the Disabled 1974-79.

J. R. Spencer

Life sentences: a barbaric lottery

Eight years ago Mrs Doris Croft, a middle-aged widow from Balsham, Cambridgeshire, discovered that her elderly lover was about to desert her for a younger woman. She battered him to death with a rolling-pin in a jealous rage, and for this she was put on probation for three years.

Two months ago – as was widely reported – Mrs Pamela Megginson, a middle-aged widow from the nearby village of Whittlesford, was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Old Bailey for an identical offence. Mrs Megginson used a champagne bottle, a more stylish weapon than Mrs Croft employed, and killed an aged lecherous millionaire, a more exciting victim than Mrs Croft's, who was the aging lecherous landlord of a public house. She also killed him in an apartment in Cap Ferrat, a more romantic setting than the Worthing boarding house where Mrs Croft's victim met his death.

But such trivia aside, the facts are identical. In abstract some sort of case can be made for saying that either sentence is the right one on such facts as these, but as it is supposedly the first principle of law that like cases should be treated alike, we may ask how the law can be so capricious.

In theory, the law of England does not recognize the existence of a *crime passionel*. On this side of the Channel a deliberate killing, however passionate, is murder, and murder is automatically visited by a sentence of life imprisonment, the judge having no discretion to order anything else. The defences of provocation and diminished responsibility sometimes operate to reduce a deliberate killing to manslaughter, an offence for which the judge does have a discretion in sentencing.

But, on the face of it, *neither* of these defences is of much use to people like Mrs Megginson and Mrs Croft. For provocation, the defendant must have lost his self-control: it must be a killing in hot blood, not in cold. Futhermore, the defendant's loss of self-control must be the result of behaviour "enough to make a reasonable man do as he did." The jury decides whether these criteria are present, and as we all know, juries sometimes bend the rules.

Subject to this, however, there is unlikely to be a strong defence of provocation for a woman who deliberately murders a lover who has ill-used her. Diminished responsibility is also limited in scope. On the face of it, therefore, women who deliberately kill their lovers can expect life imprisonment, however shamefully they have been treated.

In practice, however, it is quite another story. In the first place, the prosecution, if it wishes, can bring a charge of manslaughter where it is technically murder, and no one can question its decision. Futhermore, if it does start off prosecuting for murder, the prosecution is quite entitled to strike a deal whereby the defence accepts a plea of guilty to manslaughter in return for dropping the murder charge. The judge has a veto over this, and can insist on the murder charge being tried – as happened in the Yorkshire Ripper trial. However, such judicial intervention is rare. So if the prosecution is sympathetic to the accused, or does not want the bother of a contested trial, a person technically guilty of murder is almost guaranteed a conviction for manslaughter only.

This happens in a good many crimes of passion, and was what happened in the case of Mrs Croft. If the conviction is for manslaughter rather than for murder, then the judge has a complete discretion as to sentences: fines of one shilling, and conditional discharges, have been given for manslaughter in the past.

In the case of Mrs Megginson and her champagne bottle, there was no deal between prosecution and defence and she was therefore tried for murder. She sought to rely on the defence of provocation, and the jury – after deliberating for five hours – found it was not made out. On her conviction for murder, the life sentence followed automatically.

It is simply barbaric that the same automatic life imprisonment should be imposed on the relative who puts a terminal cancer patient out of his agony, the wife who kills a husband who has systematically ill-treated her, the bank robber who shoots a cashier dead in cold blood, and the pervert who tortures a child to death for sadistic gratification. Like other barbaric legal rules – the one which formerly decreed hanging as the automatic penalty for theft of property worth more than 12d, for example – the fixed life sentence for murder produces results which society is prepared to accept only because a number of people quietly conspire to defeat it.

They are the Director of Public Prosecutions, or the counsel he instructs, who does a deal to reduce *the charge to manslaughter; the judge who lets this happen; and the* Home Secretary, who releases the majority of convicted murderers after some years in prison.

For most serious crimes society lays down a maximum sentence within which the judge imposes what he considers fair, the Court of Appeal correcting him if he is heavy-handed. But for the most serious crime of all the penalty is decided in a series of holes and corners, by people whose decision cannot be appealed against, and who cannot be called to account.

This would be bad enough in itself, but it causes the law to be devalued in other ways as well. First, because the law ordains compulsory life imprisonment for murder, but in practice often fails to impose it or fails to carry it out, the law cries "wolf!" The public widely believes that no murderer ever goes to prison for life – whereas a number of the worst murderers *do* – and the deterrent effect of the law is undermined.

And because the system throws up the occasional freak case in which a not-too-bad murderer actually collects a life sentence, the law is thought to be capriciously over-severe as well. By posing as tougher than it is, the law only makes an ass of itself.

The author is a lecturer in criminal law and criminal procedure at Cambridge University.

Why a star wars strategy could help keep the peace

Hollywood's vision of war in space – a scene from *Battlestar Galactica*. If fiction was ever transformed into fact, would it not be preferable to nuclear devastation on earth?

European attitudes to President Reagan's "star wars" proposals – the move to develop a space-based anti-ballistic missile system, agreed in principle a few weeks ago – have generally contained elements of both amazement and derision.

The arguments advanced by United States analysts in favour of the programme, aimed initially at long-term research, have not even been thought worthy of serious examination in Britain, despite their revolutionary nature and their possibly momentous consequences.

The European media have variously described the Reagan proposals as "absurd", "irresponsibly expensive", "dangerous" and "alarming". There has been almost universal agreement that the development represents another dangerous and escalatory round of the arms race. Strategic studies departments and institutes have either doubted that the proposals are feasible or have suggested that they represent a return to United States isolationism. Few people, if any, have publicly suggested that there might be some important political or strategic advantage to Europe or, for that matter, that there might be colossal dangers to Europe if the Soviet Union were to obtain an unmatched advance in "star wars" weaponry.

It is taken for granted that any benefits the proposals might yield would be purely and narrowly American ones. But if the development is taken in the context of the continuing crisis in transatlantic relations and the recent Soviet arms build-up, then it may be seen altogether more favourably.

Indeed, it may provide the answer to problems, inherent in the Nato strategy of flexible response, which have long been perceived by a number of those with a professional interest in strategic issues – weaknesses which politicians have generally not been keen to expose to public scrutiny. These weaknesses flow from the nature of the ultimate step in the flexible response strategy: the use of US intercontinental missiles in retaliation against a Soviet attack on Europe.

According to a common view, even if the United States was willing to unleash its intercontinental ballistic missiles for this purpose, there would be little point in doing so, for Europe would have already been devastated. In any event, the critics say, no United States president in full possession of his mental faculties would risk American cities to defend frequently "disloyal" European ones. Yet if the Soviets came to believe that the United States might feel this way, they might no longer be effectively deterred.

Evidently, the United States' nuclear umbrella is not what it was in the secure and happy days of American strategic superiority. The only merit in the present policy, it is said, is that the Soviets could not be *sure* that the United States would not so respond – and this doubt is sufficient to provide Europe with adequate deterrence against a Soviet attack. But with the progressive deterioration in transatlantic relations – of which the Grenada episode is but the latest chapter – and with further increases in Soviet military might, Nato's credibility has now been significantly eroded. How much more erosion can it withstand before the whole strategy becomes plainly incredible is a difficult question to answer.

Moreover, even with significant numbers of cruise and Pershing missiles in place, such doubts and anxieties are likely to remain. The question that may come to be asked is not "would the United States press the button against the wishes of European leaders?" but "would the United States ever contemplate pressing the button if it believed that by not doing so war could be limited to Europe?"

An effective western anti-ballistic missile system in space, however, could transform *this* situation by performing the inestimably valuable task of reducing the scale of the risks to the United States in providing nuclear protection to its European allies. If the risks are judged to be fewer, it follows that United States readiness to accept them is likely to be much enhanced, and the Soviet Union will have to take account of this in its strategic calculations. This is an important argument, but so far no European public figure appears even to have taken it into account.

Supposing, however, the Soviet Union continues to exploit space for military purposes, ignoring the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 while the United States feels restrained by that treaty or by its critics at home and abroad. A moment's reflection suggests that if that happens, the western alliance will be doomed; close examination of the consequences only confirms one's initial fears.

If the Soviet Union were to develop the ability to destroy 90 per cent or so of the enemy's ballistic missiles before they re-entered the atmosphere while the United States failed to obtain a similar capacity, the Warsaw Pact might face a new and unique experience: a queue of admiring, friendly and sycophantic West European states waiting to join.

Since the United States Administration is committed so far only to examining the feasibility of "star wars" weaponry, we cannot be sure what degree of direct protection would be provided against missiles targeted on Europe. It is possible, however, that the "killer satellites" thought to be envisaged under the proposals could destroy ballistic missiles such as the SS20 as well as the strategic weapons aimed at the United States.

It is objected that the whole "star wars" phenomenon is in some ways more alarming than existing weaponry. Its development would certainly result in a substantial change of nuclear doctrine and strategy. Instead of the West signalling its intention to cause massive and unacceptable damage if attacked with nuclear weapons, it would instead be *signalling* its capacity substantially to withstand such an attack. Assuming that the Soviets continue to develop a similar capacity, we would have moved from mutually assured destruction, a policy which has caused profound if irrational anxiety, to mutually assured survival.

This, arguably, could well bring about a less turbulent and danger-fraught international climate in which it would be easier to reach agreement about reductions in offensive weapons because by switching the emphasis to defensive systems, the stakes would not be so appallingly high. Is this so "alarming"? Historically speaking, most effective strategies have generally included a defensive as well as an offensive element: the present massive reliance on weapons of attack is an aberration, and may well account for many of the fears and apprehensions that have fuelled the growth of the peace movement, however illogically.

To be sure, there is a strange breed of extra-terrestrial ecologists who argue that it is immoral to "take warfare" into space. But it is not warfare which would be sent there, but new instruments of deterrence. If that deterrence failed, the result would be a conflict between sophisticated and unmanned machines hurtling through the arid wastes of space, but it would be a war without initial loss of human life.

It cannot be safely asserted that war would remain conveniently in space. What may be said is that the immediate targets would be space-borne vehicles, missiles, or satellites, rather than cities or manned military installations on earth, and that such a conflict could conceivably end with a political settlement before human life had been lost.

This is a small part of the case that may be advanced in favour of some kind of "star wars" defence in the United States. Although it is new and strange to most people, it is not demonstrably absurd. Nor, I think, should it alarm Europeans more than, say, the deployment of the SS20s. It deserves serious and searching examination rather than scorn and derision.

Gerald Frost

The author is executive director of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, London.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Not so bad a year after all

Distance lends enchantment, we are told. Now that I frequent the courteous calm of the Upper Chamber, I sometimes read the accounts of "The Government in Disarray" with puzzlement. All in all I should have thought the Prime Minister had some reason to enjoy the first Christmas of her second administration with quiet satisfaction. And when the Treasury ministers gather for a working weekend next month at Chevening (as I trust they will to carry on an excellent new tradition), the prospect confronting them should be the most cheerful since 1979.

Consider the record. When the Treasury scrutinized the entrails at the end of 1982 we were told that our international accounts would be just about in balance in the year ahead. Inflation was expected to rise a bit to an annual rate of 5 per cent. And output was forecast to grow by a modest 1½ per cent. Most of the rival soothsayers were inclined to rubbish these predictions as wishful thinking (although the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, described by its admirers as the "most prestigious" of the outside forecasters, did stick its neck out with a promise of a £5 billion payment surplus).

On output and on prices only the Liverpool Economics Faculty was more optimistic than the Treasury – and that is usually dismissed as a bunch of monetarist nuts. Most of the others were far more pessimistic. Yet it now looks as though output actually grew almost twice as fast as the Treasury predicted, and inflation somewhat less; while a comfortable payments surplus of at least £1¼ billion seems assured.

Now Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is predicting 3 per cent growth next year and a further fall in the rate of inflation. Unemployment at long last shows signs of falling off, while our overseas sales seem to be gathering momentum (and it is fascinating to see how an industry like the shoemakers, who only 12 months ago were said to be facing extinction unless we shut out imports, are now taking on labour to meet demand – much of it for export).

Admittedly the CBI fears that recovery will falter later in 1984, and most of the academic and stockbrokers' forecasters, more forthright, accuse the Treasury of cockeyed optimism. But perhaps they should reflect on how their tips turned out for 1983.

So what is all this fumbling of which our masters stand accused? That they contrived to upset everybody over Grenada, infuriating the Atlanticists by dissociating themselves from the American invasion, while promoting the anti-Americans by declining to denounce it? But in 12 months' time will anybody remember what Grenada was about?

As for the allegation that Mrs Thatcher mishandled the Parkinson affair, I suspect that many people found her loyalty to a colleague in trouble more palatable than the old English humbugs sucked by Fleet Street.

It is said that her attempt to restrict MPs' salary increases immediately after the election to something like those for public service workers was doomed to failure, and therefore foolish to embark upon. Doomed to failure maybe, but out of touch with public opinion, I doubt.

On the labour front, we now have some Acts of Parliament which have worked the way they were meant to, and not blown up in the face of those who drafted them. That, in such a pricklish area, is no mean achievement.

Certainly some high hurdles lie ahead in 1984. We shall do well to get away without a monumental bust-up (or another botched-up, short-term, and expensive compromise, which would be almost as bad) in the EEC. Without a freeze on the present American lines, the oil price could still collapse and make a monkey of the Chancellor's arithmetic. Even without that, it looks as though he will have to have another go at public spending – or else confound the sceptics by raising taxes after all – if he is in earnest about eliminating inflation. Incidentally, if one could offer him a New Year resolution it would be to reflect that, in government, it is sometimes wiser to pursue the ball and not the man, even if the man in question is a vexing cabinet colleague.

And I suppose we shall have ructions about the attempt to prevent the town hall bureaucrats stifling local enterprise to maintain their payrolls.

But when one reflects on how good a prophet George Orwell might have proved had things turned out differently on June 9, there's a good deal to be thankful for as we say farewell to 1983.

The other-China card in our Hongkong hand

In the continuing negotiations with China over the future of Hongkong, Britain's highest card is not the legality of the nineteenth-century treaties. Nor are Peking's envoys impressed by references to unease in the colony at the prospect of communist rule.

What really strengthens the hand of Mrs Thatcher's representatives is China's determination not to terrify the real audience of this high-stakes game: 18.5 million "compatriots" on Taiwan.

What stops China from abruptly regaining sovereignty is its desire to demonstrate to Taiwan that in the event of an orderly communist takeover, Hongkong's life – and by implication Taiwan's – would remain undisturbed. Hongkong could retain its own laws, currency, and even gambling, while under the newly-proposed special "mini-constitution" Hongkong's entrepreneurs would not be lumbered with China's style of socialism.

All this would be possible under the terms of Article 31 of the Chinese constitution, which designates "special economic areas". But whereas Article 31 lays down principles applicable to both Hongkong and Taiwan, only Taiwan is mentioned in the constitution's preamble, as "part of the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China." It is, the document confirms, "the lofty duty of the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots on Taiwan, to accomplish the great task of unifying the motherland".

"The runaway province" is therefore, Peking's ultimate glittering prize. Or, as Taiwan's Premier, Sun Yun-suan, said recently, "We are the nail in their eye". It is mentioned as the primary goal of Chinese endeavour in nearly every major speech by Deng Xiaoping.

Deng and his comrades want Taiwan back because its recovery would mean the end of the civil war with the Nationalists who fled to the island in 1949. There, with American help, they established a bustling economy, the envy of many underdeveloped countries, including China. Its per-capita income of almost $2,500 places it fourth in the region, after Japan, Singapore, and Hongkong.

Taking Taiwan back by force is out of the question. If Deng ordered his meagre navy and rickety air force across the Taiwan Strait, a distance of more than 100 miles, they would be mauled by the Nationalists' superbly equipped and trained defence forces.

In September 1981, Marshal Ye Jianying, chairman of the National People's Congress standing committee, proposed to Taiwan a "high degree of autonomy", including its own armed forces, and no interference from Peking in local matters. Taiwan's socio-economic system would continue unchanged, Ye promised. Its present leaders, including President Chiang Ching-kuo, Chiang Kai-shek's son, would be offered high positions in the national government.

No one was surprised when President Chiang declared a month later that the Nationalists would never negotiate with their old enemies. They had twice before gone to the table only to be betrayed, they believed.

Finally, in July of this year, Deng Xiaoping made the most sweeping offer yet. Speaking through a Taiwan-raised Chinese professor who has lived in the US for 25 years, Deng guaranteed Taiwan its own army (which could buy its arms abroad), its own flag, and, most impressively, its own name: "Taiwan, China", the usage already adopted by the International Olympic Committee.

Deng's offer, too, has been turned down in Taipei. Premier Sun said that such advances are made only to persuade Washington that it is no longer necessary to defend Taiwan, now that China has abandoned the use of force in its reunification drive.

For the ethnic Taiwanese, descendants of coastal Chinese who have been settled on the island for centuries, reunification on any terms is abhorrent. They contend they have already suffered enough at the hands of the mainland Nationalists who reappeared in 1945 to reclaim Taiwan from the Japanese, who had occupied it since 1895, and who have used it as a refuge since the 1949 communist victory. "They think of us only as a hotel, a bastion, and a stepping stone", maintains one Taiwanese dissident.

But do the Nationalists really *think* of Taiwan merely as an off-shore province where they are gathering strength for a great irredentist reinvasion of the lost mainland? Twenty-five years ago that was the animating idea on the island. Nowadays, the future looks different. "The changes on the mainland will be mainly political", says Premier Sun, "and will take many, many years. Already they are asking each other how they can learn from Taiwan."

Deng Xiaoping and other communist leaders have indeed conceded in public that Taiwan's prosperity greatly exceeds their own. But they are aware as well of Taiwan's free-wheeling lifestyle, its western-style pop music and its prostitution – all signs of what Peking terms "spiritual pollution".

China cannot smash its way in, and if it did, few would welcome the "liberating" army. So the Chinese keep up a successful campaign to isolate their rival diplomatically, and a less successful one to hamper Taiwan's international participation in commerce, scholarship, and sport.

At the same time, and as yet with little effect, China's leaders try to persuade Taiwan that their proposed semi-autonomy will not develop into the bondage of that other semi-autonomous region – Tibet. The mainland's signal to Taiwan is "Watch how we do in Hongkong".

Jonathan Mirsky

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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THE SOVIET OVERVIEW

After Mr Andropov's failure to appear at Monday's meeting of the Soviet Central Committee it is becoming increasingly difficult to imagine that he will ever regain the political power he had a year ago. Even if he makes a physical recovery, which is looking increasingly doubtful, it will be regarded as temporary and fragile. The entire Soviet apparatus must therefore be trying to position itself for the succession. Yet Mr Andropov remains president and party leader and has managed to get some of his supporters promoted, so he remains a force to be reckoned with. Since those who have been promoted by him will not wish to lose their jobs they will do their best to see that he remains in office as long as possible, even if it means ruling from his sickbed.

His speech, read for him at the meeting must therefore be seen for the moment not only as a defence of his own achievements and plans but also as a valid statement of policy by the collective leadership now in power. Whether or not it was written personally by Mr Andropov it carries his authority and also presumably speaks for those around him who would wish to succeed him.

It is especially interesting for the urgency it attaches to improvements in the economy. It even goes as far as to say that, because the international situation has been aggravated by "aggressive imperialist circles", implementation of the economic plan for 1984 has become not just an obligation but also "a patriotic duty of every Soviet person". The appeal to patriotism, rather than only to ideology, is reminsicent of Stalin's similar appeals during the Second World War, and indicates the level of the economic challenge which the leadership perceives to be facing the country.

Mr Andropov says that "all our efforts in the economy are aimed in the final analysis at ensuring a rise in the living standards of the people". Nevertheless, it seems likely, especially in view of his patriotic appeals, that he is also concerned about the effects of slow economic growth on his country's defences. The link is made explicit in the recent CIA report from Washington that revised earlier estimates of Soviet defence spending. Previously the CIA had estimated that Soviet defence costs, measured in constant 1970 roubles, had been growing at a constant 4-5 per cent a year throughout the 1970s and were likely to continue at that rate into the future. Since economic growth would remain at around two per cent a year the military sector would be taking an ever larger proportion of resources, causing growing strain and intensifying the need for a choice to be made between civilian and military needs.

Now the CIA says that the rate of growth of military spending slowed down after 1976 and has remained at about two per cent a year since, or roughly at the same level as economic growth. The main reason is that procurement of military hardware – the largest category of defence spending – was almost flat in this period. Practically all major categories of Soviet weapons were affected, including missiles, aircraft and ships. At the same time costs for operations, maintenance and personnel continued to rise.

Selective quotations from the report will doubtless be seized upon in the West by critics of current levels of defence spending. This will, however, distort the message. The CIA is very careful to say that its estimates are "not a sufficient basis to form judgments about Soviet military spending" and that anyway, "despite somewhat slower growth in recent years the costs of Soviet defense activities still exceed those of the United States by a large margin. In 1981 the dollar costs of Soviet defense activities were 45 per cent greater than the US outlays; procurement costs alone were also 45 per cent larger. A comparison of rouble prices alone shows that Soviet defense costs were 25 per cent higher than those of the United States". The report is also cautious about the reasons for the slow-down in growth, suggesting that "it seems related to a combination of complex factors including technological problems, industrial bottlenecks and policy decisions".

The new estimates therefore have only marginal relevance to the debates on Western defence spending. Nevertheless, they are interesting because they suggest that the transfer of resources from the civilian to the military sector stopped around 1976 and has not resumed. In other words, Soviet defence spending is for the moment geared to economic growth instead of outstripping it.

One of the implications for the Soviet Union may be that the Soviet military now have a direct interest in economic growth. In their eyes, of course, this is not the same as fundamental economic reform, which could weaken central allocations in favour of the market, thereby threatening their share of the cake, but they may now feel more obligation to lend their political weight to the search for efficiency and growth through modest changes and tighter discipline, instead of feeling, as they may heve done in the past, that their own requirements would be met regardless of the condition of the rest of the economy.

Meanwhile the lesson for the West may be the opposite of that drawn by some critics of defence spending, namely that we shall have to cope with roughly the present level of Soviet spending for some time because it is causing marginally less strain than was previously assumed. Certainly there are no grounds for hoping that economic stress in the Soviet Union will solve our problems for us. As the CIA concludes: "Despite its problems the USSR is not on the verge of economic collapse. The Soviet economy is the second largest in the world, with a large and literate population, a huge industrial plant, and an enormous endowment of natural resources. Moreover, a highly centralized, rigid system of administering the economy enables the leadership to mobilize resources to focus on key objectives. The USSR has found ways to muddle through periods of economic difficulty in the past, and it will do so again in the 1980s. We emphasize that economic growth is likely to continue – not at the rapid pace of this year but at a trend rate of about two per cent a year. We would also note that the strains on the Soviet economy may be somewhat less than we thought a year ago".

FRIEND MEETS FOE

The pontificate of this Pope resembles the frescoed history painting of a great hall; a progression of tableaux each sharp in the historical detail of its subject matter, and each charged with a universal significance. "The Polish Pope kisses his native Soil", "Rome comes to Canterbury", "He blesses the wild Boar in the Vineyard of the Lord", "The Supreme Pontiff in Colloquy with his Assassin".

The Pope pronounced Christian forgiveness of his assailant within a few days of the attempt on his life in St Peter's square. Now the two men have looked each other in the eye; two souls within the compass of God's love, as one at least of them confesses. The theory which threaded the crime through a Bulgarian connexion to the Soviet KGB and its former head Mr Yuri Andropov has not won greater credence with the passage of time. But if any force remains in it, the Pope was in converse yesterday with the whole conspiracy as much as with its agent. What passed between them is not known. The symbolism of the encounter is the greater for that reticence.

"I am the enemy you killed, my friend." In Wilfred Owen's imaginary escape from battle "down some profound dull tunnel" to the hall of Hell, friend and enemy are one and the dead man knows who thrust the bayonet by his frown. No enmity remains. "Let us sleep now."

The poet reconstructs the moral frame in which the titanic war between the powers was set, and subverts it. The pity of war and the cess of war come to haunt the imagination of his surviving contemporaries and part of a younger generation, and conditioned their responses. In the case of his mentor Siegfried Sassoon a similar poetic sensibility turned him from staunch combatance to pacificism even while the fighting continued.

The Pope's personal encounter with Mehmet Ali Agca is at one with his generalized Christmastide messages to the rulers and peoples of the world. His mind is plainly troubled by the way he sees the world to be going; the denial of justice, recourse to violence, enmity between nations and ideologies, the piling up of armaments. He too seeks to reconstruct the moral frame in which the conduct of international relations is set.

The human force at his disposal is his power to command attention and speak to the common hopes and anxieties of mankind. His gift for dramatic symbolism stands him in good stead. Rulers will watch him warily, for the paradoxes of the Christian life in its application to the affairs of nations are challenging yet, even after all the disappointments of the secular history of Christendom.

CHOOSING THE SELECT

Nineteen eighty three has been a poorish year for the accountability of government to Parliament. The reason, ironically, is elections, two of them to be precise. The announcement of the general election unavoidably extinguished all the select committees in mid-investigation, some of which were promising, such as the Foreign Affairs Committee's examination of Falklands policy, the Defence Committee's inquiry into positive vetting, the Education Committee's review of public records. The second election, that of the Labour Leader, should have had nothing to do with the select committee system. But the Opposition refused to nominate members for the all-party groups until the Foot succession had been resolved, an example of party convenience prevailing over national interest.

After a further delay of a few weeks, while the minor parties struggled to increase their complement, the select committees are now in the process of starting up once more after a gap of seven months which has brought pleasure only to those in Whitehall hankering after a quiet life. There are some cheering auguries for the committees in the second Parliament of their existence. There has been no shortage of MPs competing for places. The membership of most reflects a healthy balance between seasoned committee men and new arrivals with fresh perspectives. The committees have been given a definite fillip by Sir Douglas Wass, the 1983 Reith Lecturer, who confessed that as Permanent Secretary to the Treasury in 1979 he was an apprehensive sceptic but now regards them as one of the "most important and exciting" of recent political developments.

Yet their resurrection has been accompanied by a sense of unease largely associated with the Government's successful attempt to foist Mr Humphrey Atkins, the former Northern Ireland Secretary and deputy foreign secretary, on the Defence Committee as its chairman. A degree of compassion is in order for Mr Atkins who cannot relish being seen as Mrs Thatcher's "poodle". Last summer she let it be known she would be pleased if he was chosen as Mr Speaker. Mr Bernard Weatherill got that job. This month her Chief Whip, Mr John Wakeham, spent an evening exerting heavy pressure on the Tory caucus in the Defence Committee until he persuaded them that Mr Atkins should emerge as chairman after the next meeting of the committee in January. There is something unsavoury about top parliamentary posts being treated by the Government as job-creation schemes for ex-Cabinet ministers approaching their political Indian summer.

Mr Wakeham is a brilliant wielder of the patronage weapon. It is only to be expected that prime ministers and chief whips will apply the blacker of the political arts to any area where they sense potential trouble that might be defused. Though, in a reasonable world, a majority of 144 seats might induce a little more sang froid. The blame partly lies elsewhere in the Atkins affair – with the Conservative members of the Defence Committee. If they could have agreed on either Mr Michael Mates or Mr Michael Marshall as an alternative to Mr Atkins, the Chief Whip's blandishments would have been in vain. Mr Wakeham saw a split and exploited it.

Matters, however, could end happily. The other select committee chairmen, who together comprise the backbenchers' shop stewards group, officially known as the Liaison Committee, can easily prevent their chairmanship falling into the hands of Mr Atkins. For his part, Mr Atkins has a sure way of ridding himself of his poodle-shaped stigmata. As chairman of the Defence Committee he can conduct himself with spirit and tenacious independence. Mr Wakeham may yet regret his evening of heavy pressure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pressing query on Scott Lithgow

From Professor James Pickett

Sir, Questions about the Scott Lithgow crisis may be asked of British Shipbuilders, of local management, certainly of the workforce, and of Britoil. The most pressing question, however, is whether the Government's passive attitude is well founded.

Here it is not sufficient to note, with Mrs Thatcher, that the shipyard's record is abysmal. An ability to compete in the market for deep-water oil rigs would be in the national economic interest. Government consequently has a responsibility to be certain that Scott Lithgow cannot be brought to competitiveness before abandoning it. It should also be willing to accept that reliance on market forces is not the only route to economic efficiency.

There are three positive elements in the present situation. First, many believe that the shipyard has made substantial progress in acquiring the managerial, technical and labour skills needed to compete in a difficult market; second, encouragement may be taken from a managerial and productivity experiment which has enabled a Greenock marine engineering firm recently to complete an engine for Cunard in less than half the time it was wont to take (*The Times*, December 19, 1983); and, third, the desperation inherent in the situation gives the Government enormous clout. It will seldom have a better opportunity to enforce competitiveness.

In the circumstances, the Government should immediately offer *conditional aid, making it clear that* vastly improved efficiency is the main condition. The aid could in the first instance take the form of underwriting work for the 300-day margin apparently allowed for in the Britoil contract.

This would be in part self-financing through moneys saved on redundancy and unemployment benefits. It would also give all at Scott Lithgow a chance to show their paces, at least postpone the legal battle between British Shipbuilders and Britoil, and provide time for the Government to determine – expeditiously and expertly – the detailed conditions which have to be met if the yard is to be internationally competitive.

I believe that some such approach would be better for my town and our country than reproachful inaction.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES PICKETT, Director,
David Livingstone Institute of Overseas Development Studies,
University of Strathclyde,
McCance Building,
16 Richmond Street, Glasgow.
December 21.

Combating Sinn Fein

From Mr L. C. Bailey

Sir, What an unnecessary pother is being created over the possible proscription of Sinn Fein! All that is needed is that every electoral candidate be required to declare before acceptance that he will neither incite nor advocate the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, or in any attempt to undermine constitutional government.

The onus of legitimacy in a democratic state would thus be placed squarely upon those who aspire to power within it. We should not then be faced with the absurdity of electing to democratic government those whose prime concern is its destruction.

Yours sincerely,
LAWRENCE C. BAILEY,
19 Sharmans Cross Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Justice for ratepayers

From Mr Roland C. Rench

Sir, I am increasingly astonished by people such as Sir Jack Smart, Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities who, when rejecting the Government's case for rate-capping, frequently refer to "the democracy of local government".

How can the present system possibly be regarded as democratic when millions of individuals with incomes above the national income-tax liability threshold make no direct contribution to their local councils (in the same way as ratepayers) yet are able to enjoy the luxury of "representation without taxation"? Naturally, they couldn't care two hoots about the financial implications of hare-brained schemes espoused by some councillors or empire-building aspirations of the bureaucracy.

Not only would rate-capping prove unnecessary, but equity and justice in the funding of local government will only be achieved when the domestic rating system is abolished and replaced by a local income tax system. A detailed and convincing argument for not so doing has yet to be made public by this Government.

Yours sincerely,
ROLAND C. RENCH,
8 Minshull Place,
Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.

Navy cuts

From Mr Patrick Duffy, MP for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Labour).

Sir, Rodney Cowton's report (December 2) of the "Navy's success in postponing the rundown of its fleet of destroyers and frigates" does not alter the underlying downward trend which disquieted most members who spoke from both sides of the House in the Navy debate on November 28.

Since that debate, written answers to parliamentary questions reveal that only three destroyers and seven frigates are currently on order, that only six frigates have been ordered since May, 1979, and three of these are replacements for vessels lost in the South Atlantic, whereas five frigates and one destroyer are to be withdrawn from the active fleet during 1984 and six frigates in 1985.

Despite ministerial claims, the number of operational frigates and destroyers in the late eighties is likely to drop as low as 20, not 35 to 40, the Government's stated target out of 50 to be kept available; much of the fleet will be un-modernised and over 20 years old.

But your headline in another edition the same day read "Nato 'at risk with inadequate seapower'" and reported the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, Admiral Wesley L. McDonald, USN, as stating that in terms of modern destroyers, frigates, attack submarines and equipment used in mine warfare he was 50 per cent short of his needs, which are based on the requirement to sustain Western Europe by ensuring the safe passage of at least 90 per cent of merchant shipping.

At least as serious as the emasculation of the Royal Navy is the drastic and continuing decline of our Merchant Navy. Our merchant fleet has declined almost 3.4 million gross registered tons and at least 140 ocean-going ships in the past year to put us eighth in the world league; and 5,000 officers and men are leaving the sea every year.

Thus ministerial assurances that the "merchant fleet remains capable of meeting defence needs in emergency" also lack conviction. Adequate numbers of these men and their ships are every bit as essential as modern destroyers and frigates if the resupply and reinforcement of Western Europe is to be served without lowering the nuclear threshold.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK DUFFY,
House of Commons.
December 19.

When workers sink in the poverty pool

From Dr K. V. Roberts

Sir, Certainly a standard minimum wage has all the disadvantages outlined in your leading article of December 20. Nevertheless, if it were merely abolished with nothing put in its place the likely consequence is that wages in some occupations would fall below the bare subsistence level.

There is no natural barrier against this because the wives and dependent children of those who already have a well-paid job constitute a pool of labour that can afford to work for low wages; indeed below a certain level their wages attract no income tax.

A family that at present relies entirely on social security has no such option, however, since any additional income received by one of its members incurs an effective tax rate of around 100 per cent.

Surely there is a better and less divisive long-term solution? The protection of a minimum wage without its attendant disadvantages could be achieved quite simply by distributing a basic subsistence income to all individual resident citizens. The level would depend only on age and be independent of other financial resources.

This basic income would replace most existing transfer payments and many tax allowances. It would enable a host of restrictions to be safely removed, including the minimum wage, and a genuinely free labour market established.

Hermione Parker has explained, in evidence presented to the recent House of Commons Subcommittee on the Structure of Personal Income Taxation and Income Support, how a basic income scheme could be established at no net cost to the Exchequer. Is it not worth considering?

Yours sincerely,
K. V. ROBERTS,
Culham Laboratory,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.
December 20.

From the President of the Retail Book, Stationery, and Allied Trades Employees' Association

Sir, Owners of slaves on the cotton plantations and employers of children in the coal mines would have been delighted had they been alive to read your first leader on December 20 ("Price for the job"). Fortunately for western civilization all those in our society who have sought to justify the exploitation of labour have been defeated ultimately by the moral imperatives that underlie the fact that "labour" is our neighbour.

In the case of wages or the "price for the job" the moral imperative has been amply expressed: "... the justice of a socioeconomic system deserves to be evaluated by the way in which man's work is properly remunerated", said the present Pope in his encyclical letter, *Laborem Exercens*. He goes on to say: "Just remuneration for the work of an adult who is responsible for a family means remuneration which will suffice for establishing and properly maintaining a family and providing security for its future".

The "right to a fair remuneration" is embodied in the European Social Charter and the Committee of Independent Experts has proposed that this is defined as a level of 68 per cent of the national average wage ... "workers receiving less than this amount would not be considered as receiving a fair or decent remuneration".

In our country in 1909 Winston Churchill said: "It is a serious national evil that any class of his Majesty's subjects should receive less than a living wage in return for their utmost exertions" – words as relevant now as they were then. In the light of your leader it is apposite to continue this quotation: "It was formerly supposed that the working of the laws of supply and demand would naturally regulate and eliminate that evil ... but where you have no organization, no parity of bargaining ... you have not a condition of progress, but a condition of progressive degeneration." (Hansard, April 28, 1909.)

Although there are, surely, readers who will expose the weakness of much said by you, the greatest weakness is your failure to address yourself to the moral issue you have raised.

Sir, you owe it to your readers and the previous high standards of your newspaper to restore some balance to your arguments by explaining how an adult would in 1983 suffice on a weekly rate even lower than £60 a week, the current norm of Wage Council rates, to which bonuses and overtime make little difference.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. ABBOTT, President,
The Retail Book, Stationery, and Allied Trades Employees' Association,
7 Grape Street,
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2.
December 23.

Frozen funds for MSC

From Mrs Anne Aldrich and Mr Graham Petrie

Sir, The recent freeze on funds for Manpower Services Commission community programmes defies logic or understanding. This has been acknowledged as a successful MSC scheme, developed from the previous Community Enterprise Programme, and area offices have been active in recruiting sponsors to set up projects and agencies catering for long-term unemployed people.

Now not only new schemes but those seeking renewal for a further year are "frozen" for an unspecified time, leaving sponsors and workforces, without warning, in shocked, bitter and disillusioned uncertainty.

Many community programmes like our own have been constructively used to employ disadvantaged people who had been left at the end of the queue for jobs. We have employed young adults with a history of psychological problems in a craft workshop setting where their rehabilitation has been unquestionably advanced by the acquisition of skills and working relationships resulting in increased self-esteem.

We have earned the backing of the relevant local union, employers' association, councils, mental welfare organisations, as well as that of our customers. A team of gifted supervisors are now disbanded with the workforce.

The community programme scheme is known to have good returns for its expenditure, has filled places successfully and produced schemes of community benefit all over the country. It has given employment, developed skills and increased opportunities to acquire permanent employment.

The Youth Training Scheme, on the other hand, has had problems in getting off the ground and is acknowledged to be underspent by a large margin. Is it beyond the bounds of possibility (or logic) to transfer unspent millions from the budget of an unproven and less successful scheme to an established and successful one?

If the Government releases further funds eventually for the community programme sponsors will be hard to find the second time round. The abandonment of schemes in a programme of such potential reduces their credibility to vanishing point.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE ALDRICH, Director,
GRAHAM PETRIE, Chairman,
Castle Project,
2 Benet Place,
Lensfield Road,
Cambridge.
December 14.

Puzzle for Orwell

From Mr A. T. Lynam-Smith

Sir, Your leader (December 17) wisely drew attention to the danger of divesting local government of real responsibilities.

Having just returned from the USA, I was struck by the difference in attitude towards local government. They refer to "our" schools, "our" chamber of commerce, etc. In this country we only refer to "the" schools.

It is ironic that, in 1984, a *Conservative* government intends to reduce further local responsibilities, with the consequent apathy on the part of local communities and increase in state control. George Orwell would have cause to be puzzled.

Yours faithfully,
A. T. LYNAM-SMITH,
Sunningwell House,
Sunningwell,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.
December 18.

Captain Cook's end

From Lieutenant-Commander Lloyd W. Barnes

Sir, In a travel article entitled "Aloha, hula and goodbye to an Hawaiian odyssey" (December 17) you refer to the exploits of Captain James Cook in the history of the Hawaiian Islands. In particular, you report that Captain Cook was killed "on the beach near the now-famous Diamond Head"; presumably you mean Waikiki.

I beg to differ. Captain Cook was slain at Kealakekua Bay on the big island of Hawaii on February 14, 1779. This location is far away from Diamond Head, which is on the island of Oahu.

A monument has been erected to Captain Cook at Kealakekua Bay and this monument is visited and maintained regularly by officers and men of the Canadian Navy.

Yours aye,
LLOYD BARNES,
Canadian High Commission,
Defence Liaison Staff,
Macdonald House,
1 Grosvenor Square, W1.

A fairer deal for sugar-growers

From the Bishop Suffragan of Warwick

Sir, I am grateful to discover that someone else is concerned about the level of European sugar production. Every time I have tried to raise the issue I have been told that it is too complex for anyone but the expert to understand.

Sir Robert Kirkwood (December 7) expresses the anomaly in its simplest and starkest form: why impoverish Third World importers by producing our own sugar?

He might have added that we can grow other crops, but even if the Caribbean countries were persuaded to diversify, they do not have the capital resources to do so. Their dependence on sugar-growing is largely the consequence of European intervention in the past, and having helped to populate these countries through the slave trade, we have since the War forced them to reexport the children of the plantations by denying them an adequate market for their labour at home and their sugar abroad.

Apart from the understandable desire of European farmers to profit from a readily-saleable beet crop, the only reason I have understood for our apparent selfishness is that we learned from two world wars the danger of dependence on imports of basic foodstuffs.

Does Sir Robert – or anyone else – accept that we in Europe must grow more than half our sugar, whatever the cost to us and the Third World, in case we are subjected to a future sea blockade?

Yours faithfully,
† KEITH WARWICK,
Warwick House,
9 Armorial Road,
Coventry,
West Midlands.
December 7.

Charities and the state

From Mr H. E. Bell

Sir, The arguments in your leader of December 17 ("Charitable giving and taking") against Government subventions to charities are overwhelming. How much better and more effective to make individuals' donations to charity tax-deductible as in the USA, Canada and elsewhere, providing a necessary incentive to donors.

American generosity, which you praise, is not without self-interest in this respect. In Britain at present public money is being withdrawn from universities, for instance without any real hope of their making up the difference. The tax lost by such a change might well be offset by the saving on grants to voluntary bodies.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. BELL,
Senior Assistant Registrar,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
Reading,
Berkshire.
December 19.

Deaths of kings

From Mr Oliver Gillie

Sir, Bernard Levin's attempt to rewrite British history (December 22) does not do him credit. Argumentation about the normal human life span is no substitute for facts when considering how our last four kings died. In 1977 I revealed in *The Sunday Times* (Magazine, September 4) that our last four kings died of smoking diseases and this has never been seriously challenged by any historian or doctor.

Edward VII started to suffer from bronchitis in his late forties. He was advised by his doctors to smoke less but paid no attention. In his sixties the monarch became severely short of wind and instead of stalking deer had to have them driven on to his gun. He was 68 when, still a smoker, he died of a heart attack.

George V also suffered from severe bronchitis for a large part of his adult life. In 1928, aged 63, he suffered from an attack of pneumonia, which would have killed anyone without expert medical attention.

George VI, who smoked 40 to 50 cigarettes a day, did not only die (aged 56) of lung cancer but started to suffer from obstruction to the circulation of the right leg at the age of 52. He had to have an operation to cut nerves – a sympathectomy – to save the right leg.

Edward Duke of Windsor, who was briefly Edward VIII, narrowly escaped death in 1964 when he was operated on for an aneurysm of the aorta – a common consequence of heavy smoking. Eventually he died, eight years later, aged 77, of cancer of the throat.

The seven serious diseases suffered by the four kings – two cancers, two severe arterial problems, two chronic bronchitis and a heart attack – are all common consequences of smoking and led to their demise. If they had not smoked and had died of old age these Kings might reasonably have been expected to live into their eighties.

Yours sincerely,
OLIVER GILLIE,
Medical Correspondent,
The Sunday Times,
61 Dartmouth Park Road, NW5.
December 22.

Personality change

From the Reverend Canon J. G. Grimwade

Sir, I find it surprising that you give only four lines to the statement in today's *Times* (December 21) that if there were a chance to be anyone else, Mrs Thatcher would choose to be Mother Teresa.

If this is how the Prime Minister feels it implies an immense change in the Government's health and social policies in the coming year.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIMWADE,
The Rectory,
Stonesfield,
Oxford.
December 21.

COURT AND SOCIAL

Forthcoming marriages

Dr M. Abbott and Dr J. Weeks

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Abbott, of Hartford, Cheshire, and Jennifer Hilary, eldest daughter of Mr Robert Weeks, F.R.C.S., and Dr Avril Weeks, of Radyr, South Glamorgan.

Mr R. G. Andrews and Miss S. Falkiner

The engagement is announced between Raymond Geoffrey, eldest son of Mr Derek Andrews and of Mrs Mary Andrews, 32 Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk, and Sophia, elder child of Mr and Mrs Richard Falkiner, 15 Yarrell Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, London, W14 9TB.

Mr R. Liley and Miss R. Hughes

The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. N. Liley, of Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire, and Ruth, elder daughter of Mrs M. Hughes and the late Frank Hughes, of Nantwich, Cheshire.

Mr A. S. Maclay and Miss M. Malaise

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr and Mrs W. S. S. Maclay, of Hambledon, Surrey, and Myriam, daughter of Pastor and Mrs A. Malaise, of Crissier, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Surgeon Lieutenant S. C. Sheard, RN, and Miss S. A. Scott

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Dr and Mrs M. E. Sheard, of Spring Hill Court, Nailsworth, and Sally-Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A. M. Scott, of Christmas Pie House, Christmas Pie, near Guildford.

Birthdays today

Sir Henry Bland, 74; Mr W. A. Camps, 73; Mr D. C. Carr, 57; Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, 73; Sir Bayard Dill, 78; Mr T. W. Gould, VC, 69; Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, 51; Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, 71; Lord Justice O'Connor, 69; Mr Simon Raven, 56; Professor E. J. Richards, 69; Lord Salmon, 80; Miss Maggie Smith, 49.

Latest appointments

Mr David Emms, Master of Dulwich College, London, is to succeed Mr Roger Ellis, Master of Marlborough College, as Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference.

Air Commodor Geoffrey J. B. Claridge to be Secretary of The British Association of Occupational Therapists.

Latest wills

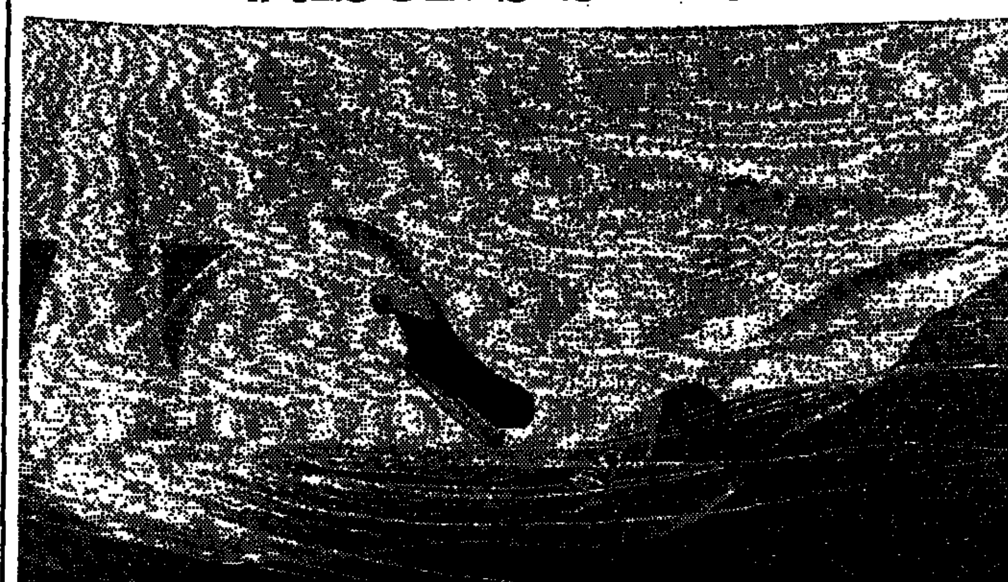
Allen, Mr David Charles, of North Stoke, Oxfordshire £348,681
Barker, Mr John Arthur Bainbridge, of Aldbrough St John, Richmond, North Yorkshire £213,925
Ekins, Dorothy Olive, of Warboys, Cambridgeshire £236,884
Roberts, Brigadier Charles Douglas, of Frant, East Sussex £470,235
Ward, Mr Geoffrey Ernest, of Westcliff-on-Sea £444,679
Keisner, Mr Arthur William of Regent's Park, London, intestate £365,829

Murray to help 'Crisis' team

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general-secretary, and his wife will do an eight-hour shift today, serving tea and food and cleaning up at the Crisis at Christmas warehouse in Vauxhall, London, which provides food and accommodation for the homeless.

Among other visitors have been the labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, and the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowlby, with their wives. The Christmas event started on December 23 and hundreds of homeless people have gone to the warehouse. On Christmas Day more than 1,000 enjoyed a traditional dinner. The warehouse is open until tomorrow.

Audubon's birds set to lay a golden egg





A selection of hand coloured aquatint plates from John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, the four volumes of which are to be auctioned by Sotheby's on February 1. The books, dated 1827-1838, are likely to fetch more than £1m.







The plates show: (top) trumpeter swan and Roseate spoonbill; (bottom) snowy heron, American white pelican, and American flamingo.

Chess tournament goes ahead without Russians

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Despite the Soviet Chess Federation's failure to send any players, the fifty-ninth Hastings International Premier Chess Tournament which opens at the White Rock Pavilion today, looks stronger than ever; it includes nine international grandmasters, four international masters, and one FIDE master.

Oddly enough, the replacements necessary because of the lAst-minute Russian defection have strengthened the Elo rating of the tournament, so that much fine chess can be expected during the next few weeks.

There are two international grandmasters from the United States: Alburt and Gurevitch, and an American international master, Kudrin, who has an Elo rating higher than that of most grandmasters.

Other strong grandmasters include Csom and Sax from Hungary, Ftacnik of Czechoslovakia; Suba of Romania; Karlsson from Sweden; and the Britons, Mestel and Speelman. If the last two are in form they should be strong candidates for the leading places.

There are also two British international masters taking part: Mark Hebden and Nigel Short, as well as the FIDE master Andrew Martin who qualified for the premier by winning the Challengers' section last year. The fourth international master taking part is Ivanov of Canada.

Much interest centres on Nigel Short, aged 18, since it is hoped that he will gain the third grandmaster norm and so become the world's youngest grandmaster.

Cumbrian climbers press on with attempt at Everest

By Ronald Faux

The eight members of the Cumbrian Mount Everest expedition are determined to press ahead with their plans to attempt the West Ridge of the mountain from China next year, without support from the Mount Everest Foundation.

As they packed one and a quarter tons of equipment yesterday ready for its transport to Peking, the climbers dismissed fears that they lacked the experience or the lung capacity to succeed.

Mr David Kay, of Penrith, said: "We believe there is far more involved in high altitude mountaineering than this one question of lung capacity that the foundation, through Mr Michael Ward, is concentrating on. There is the whole issue of motivation and commitment to succeed that is just as important to climbing the West Ridge of Everest as they are on a Lake District outcrop.

"The decision whether an attempt has become too dangerous must be left to the individual climber on the mountain, not to a committee sitting in London."

The climbers will be submitting to tests by their own doctor which they hope will provide material that will eventually be of use to athletes proposing to compete at high altitudes.

The expedition, led by Mr Pat Gunson, of Ulverston, is costing the climbers more than £4,000 each. "Some have taken out second mortgages and others have cashed life insurance policies. But funds from American sources and a grant from ICI have helped to ease the pressure", Mr Kay said.

The party leaves for Peking in March.

The Mount Everest Foundation has no power to prevent a climbing expedition from attempting any objective but its approval is invaluable in securing sponsorship. Although the Cumbrian climbers have not been told officially that their application for approval has been rejected, the foundation's new guidelines on the dangers to small expeditions attempting high-altitude objectives without supplementary oxygen would exclude their expedition.

The Cumbrian team is one of smallest in size ever to attempt Everest. A smaller attempt led by Mr Chris Bonington in 1982 ended with the disappearance of Mr Peter Boardman and Mr Joe Tasker, high on the East North-east ridge.

Cash crisis may close animal sanctuary

By Tony Samstag

A home for old, sick and unwanted animals will have to close within a week or two if it cannot raise at least £8,000. The 18-year-old Sanctuary for Equine Animals Trust in Horam, near Heathfield, East Sussex, is without a telephone because it could no longer pay the bills and the sanctuary is threatened with the spectre of the bailiffs.

Mrs Vicki Gillard-Loft, who cares for about seventy assorted horses, goats, donkeys, ponies, sheep, cattle, dogs, cats and rabbits, blames the hot dry summer and the consequent high cost of hay for much of her predicament.

She admits, however, that financial crisis has been fairly regular since she started the sanctuary, seemingly a natural consequence of family history.

Mrs Gillard-Loft has taken a variety of jobs, from nursing to modelling, to help to fiance the trust.

Zoo to close: The zoo at Cromer, Norfolk, founded 21 years ago by Coco the Clown, is to close. Rising costs and falling attendances have led to the decision, said his daughter, Mrs Olga Kerr, who yesterday issued an urgent appeal for purchasers for her lions, tigers, pumas, sheep and baboons.

Science report

Rubbish tips become a gull's delight

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The link between the reorganization of local councils almost 10 years ago and the amount of damage since done to aircraft by "birdstrike" is not obvious. But research by government scientists into the habits of seagulls has shown that it exists.

It concerns rubbish dumps, which provide happy hunting grounds for the birds. The scientists, who work at the Worplesdon laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, have given a graphic description of an existence which is as worrying for airlines as it is agreeable for the birds.

"Gulls spent much of the day at loafing sites, usually in one large flock, resting, preening and bathing where water was available. Loafing sites generally commanded a good all-round view." Some large inland council dumps are now visited by thousands of happy birds, which may have travelled thousands of miles to feast on the heaps of refuse.

But seagulls are also responsible for 42 per cent of the British cases of "birdstrike", in which a bird can be drawn into the engine of an airliner. Human lives have sometimes been lost in the ensuing accidents.

Inland rubbish did not attract gulls until householders were persuaded to put it in dustbins instead of throwing it out of their back doors. Municipal dumps started to attract complaints about gulls more than 50 years ago.

The reorganization of local government in the early 1970s led to a rationalization of refuse disposal in which dumping was concentrated on a smaller number of larger sites. The larger the heaps, the more the gulls flew down to feed on them. One of the counties abolished at that time was Middlesex, which included London's Heathrow airport.

The ministry scientists concentrated their gull studies on an area to the south and west of the airport. They marked some of the gulls found there and some of those birds were later seen as far away as Switzerland, Finland and Poland. Their study showed that a single large council rubbish heap could influence the feeding habits of thousands of gulls.

If such a tip was closed, the birds would disappear not only from its site, but also from smaller feeding grounds nearby such as playing fields and sewage works. The scientists found that the birds were not easily dislodged from the "superabundance of food" that awaited them on the tips. "Gulls often fed very close to the working bulldozer as it levelled and compacted refuse."

The gulls, which were once hardly seen far inland, now pose a significant hazard in a country such as Britain where the Government expects demand for air travel to grow. But the birds are consistent in their habits. They follow the same routes to their rubbish dumps year after year, and they may fly more than 20 miles across Britain from roost to feeding site.

It is, therefore, possible when planning a new rubbish dump to calculate the likely routes and numbers of the gulls that will be attracted to it. In areas near airports, therefore, the habits of gulls must be considered when councils make plans for establishing rubbish tips.

The Journal of Applied Ecology, December, 1983 (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford; annual subscription £58.50).

University news

Aberdeen

Dr Hugh G. Miller, DSc, principal scientific officer, Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, has been appointed to the chair of forestry.

Edinburgh

Professor Robert Ramage has been appointed to the Forbes Chair of organic chemistry, from September 1, 1984. Professor Ramage holds the chair of organic chemistry at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

Dr Paul F. Bradley has been appointed to the chair in oral surgery from October 1, 1983. He succeeds Professor W. D. MacLennan. Since 1977 Dr Bradley has been a consultant in oral and maxillofacial surgery to North Wales, while retaining research associate status with Liverpool University.

Professor Alastair A. Spence has been appointed to the chair of anaesthetics. The previous head of department, Professor J. D. Robertson, retired in 1982. Professor Spence was formerly head of the university department of anaesthesia, Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

Mr Michael H. Weber has been appointed director of the Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Liaison from February 1, 1984, on secondment from his present post as lecturer in the department of business studies.

Newcastle

Grants

Medical Research Council: £79,254 to Dr P Kendall-Taylor for research into mechanisms regulating cell growth and proliferation in the normal thyroid and in autoimmune thyroiditis: £58,965 to Professor P T Emerson and Dr H M Arthur to study the role of DNA helicase II in DNA repair and replication in EColi.

Agricultural Research Council: £67,171 to Professor D G Armstrong to study digestion metabolism and related milk production studies.

Science and Engineering Research Council: £43,060 to Dr J S Burdess and Professor L Maunder to study solid state vibratory gyroscope.

Wales

Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following:

MA: Mrs Eunice Jones, for her contributions to public life in Wales; Miss Dyddgu Owen (education and literature); Mr Harold A. Prescott (public library service).

LLD: Mr John Francis Burke (cancer research and medicine); Sir Edward Walter Parkes (engineering and services to the financing and administration of universities); Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani (statesman).

DSc: Professor John Ivan George Cadogan (chemistry and services to science).

D Litt: Marquess of Anglesey (public service in Wales and military history); Miss Siân Phillips (actress).

Sheffield

Grants

Agricultural Research Council: £127,280 to Professor D A Walker for studies of photosynthetic carbon assimilation.

Chemical Abstracts Service: £82,700 to Professor M F Lynch for studies of generic chemical formulae.

Derwent Publications: £70,000 to Professor Lynch for studies of generic formulae.

Science and Engineering Research Council/British Telecom: £49,539 to Professor P N Robson and Dr P I Rockett for studies of GaAlAs/GaAs Letew-structures IL logic.

Bristol

Mr D. T. Ulphy, reader in the department of political economy, University College London, has been appointed to the chair in economics, in succession to Professor W. H. Buiter.

Mr A. D. Chesher, lecturer in econometrics, Birmingham University, has been appointed to the chair in econometrics, in succession to Professor A. S. Deaton.

Dr A. H. Linton, reader in veterinary bacteriology, has been appointed to the chair in bacteriology.

Dr G. K. Wilcock, consultant physician, department of geriatric and general medicine, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, has been appointed to the chair in care of the elderly.

Dr J. E. Beringer, senior principal scientific officer, Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been appointed to the directorship of the Molecular Genetics Unit.

Grants

Science and Engineering Research Council: £66,961 to Professor R N Dixon towards an investigation of two-photon and two-colour spectroscopy; £66,680 to Mr B F Day, Mr P W Fitt and Dr R R Clements towards an investigation of modular simulation programs for thermal design of services and buildings; £56,668 to Dr R V Barrett towards an investigation of high lift wing research part span flap effects; £45,995 to Dr J J Holbrook towards an investigation of cryenzymology of dehydrogenase enzymes; £44,050 to Dr D J Dingley towards an investigation of development and application of electron back scattering in the SEM; £43,296 to Dr D V Evans and Dr J P Davis towards an investigation of enhanced wave energy absorption through double resonance effects.

Medical Research Council: £174,149 to Dr J C Watkins to study physiology and pharmacology of excitatory amino acid transmitter systems in the mammalian central nervous system; £82,710 to Professor B T Pickering towards an MRC neuronal peptides research group; £57,324 to Professor R L Gregory for investigation of impairments in stereo depth, movement, acuity and form perception around isoluminance, in normal and amylyopes; £47,688 to Dr J Hindley to study DNA sequence analysis and transcription mapping of two cell division cycle controlling genes in S. pombe; £43,929 to Professor B T Pickering and Professor D G Porter to study the role of testicular oxytocin and vasopressin; £43,542 to Dr K J Murray to study hormonal regulation of cardiac glycogen synthase by protein phosphorylation; £40,645 to Professor D L Easty for an investigation of a new method of corneal cryopreservation at 196° in a vapour chamber.

Department of Education and Science: £376,978 to Dr R Bolam for a national development centre for school management training.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: £170,728 to Dr S Harris for urban carnivore research.

Milk Marketing Board: £53,736 to Dr S E Long towards an investigation of oestrus detection in dairy cows.

Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust: £738,095 to Professor N R Butler towards the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood research team.

Royal Society: £67,214 to the department of biochemistry towards a university research fellowship for Dr M A Geeves; £64,479 to the department of zoology towards a university research fellowship for Dr J M V Rayner; £61,750 to the school of chemistry for a research fellowship for Dr S C Brassell.

Wellcome Trust: £63,725 to Dr O T Phillipson for an investigation of thalamic control of dopaminergic functions.

Leverhulme Trust: £49,865 to Dr J G Kyle towards an investigation on the family and the process of adjustment to deafness.

Facet Limited: £75,000 to Mr B F Day, Mr P W Fitt and Dr R R Clements towards an investigation on modular simulation programs for thermal design of services and buildings.

British Petroleum: £218,629 to Professor G Eglinton and Dr J R Maxwell towards an investigation of molecur organic geochemistry.

Dalgety Spillers: £82,376 to Professor A J F Webster for an evaluation of feeds for ruminant livestock.

Horserace Betting Levy Board: £52,789 to Professor I A Silver as a supplementary grant towards a study and treatment of tendon injuries.

North Tyneside Health Authority: £45,000 to Professor P Townsend for a pilot study of the relationship between deprivation and health in two areas.

Agricultural and Food Research Council: £84,190 to Professor J MacMillan as a supplementary grant towards an investigation of Gibberellins and development processes: metabolism structure-activity chemical preparation.

Cancer Research Campaign: £68,438 to Professor M A Epstein for an investigation of virus aetiology of human malignant disease: lymphoma/nasopharyngeal carcinoma.

Imperial Tobacco: £46,780 to Mr R N Baird towards a continuation of the research fellowship in vascular surgery.

Southampton

The Mountbatten Memorial Trust has awarded a grant of £87,000 to the Man-Machine Systems group in the Department of Electronics to develop a low-cost, easy-to-use system for subtitling educational television programmes for the deaf. The essential feature of the system will be the provision of a local facility within schools, with captioning done by the teacher.

Keele

Grant

Science and Engineering Research Council: £198,396 to Dr K H Bennett, department of computer science, to study a structure for reliable filestones.

City

Mr J. D. Dodge has been appointed professor of journalism and head of the centre for journalism studies.

Visiting professorships: Mr A. J. Rogers (physics); Professor T. Rybczyski (social science and humanities); Professor J. Blacking, Dr P. Manning and Professor W. Mellers (music).

Readerships: Dr K S Virdi (civil engineering); Dr I K Smith (mechanical engineering); Dr S Haberman and Dr M W Warner (mathematics); Dr D Glycopantis (social science and humanities); Dr F H Caple (banking and international finance).

Senior lectureships: Dr S Miller and Dr D H Ruben (social science and humanities); Dr R P Townsend (chemistry); Dr A M Shea (legal studies).

Lectureships: Mr K T V Grattan (physics); Mr R D Douglas, Ms T Griffiths and Mr M J A Port (optometry and visual science); Miss A Moritz (social science and humanities); Mr J Crinnion, Mr A N Güntert, Mr I W Jones, Mr G M Selim and Mr G Vinten (business school); Mr S Parker (continuing education).

Grants

Science and Engineering Research Council: £63,260 to Dr J H Atkinson for research on determination of soil parameters for design from stress path tests; SERC and McClelland Ltd: £32,850 to Dr Atkinson for research on application of critical state soil mechanics in geotechnical engineering practice.

SERC: £51,537 to Professor A Tseung for research on aluminium oxygen batteries for powering submersibles.

ICL: £56,600 to Dr B Littlewood to study software reliability.

Ministry of Defence: £56,646 to Dr J Barbur and Professor R W G Hunt for research on target movement and colour in visual search.

OBITUARY

MISS VIOLET CARSON

Grand Old Lady of 'Coronation Street'



Miss Violet Carson, OBE, the actress, pianist and singer and, through her playing of the brusque, cross-grained Ena Sharples in the long-running serial *Coronation Street*, one of the best-known faces in television, died on December 26 in Blackpool. She was 85.

She played the character for over 2,000 performances and was last seen in the part which she made very much her own in February, 1980. She was made OBE in 1965, and was an honorary MA of Manchester University. In 1960 the writer Tony Warren engaged in casting the new serial remembered Miss Carson as a "no nonsense" actress he had met professionally when he was 12 and asked her to audition for the part of Ena. "Why", said Miss Carson, "She's a back-street bitch" and the legend was born.

There are television actors and actresses who seem to disappear almost completely into the roles they play. Violet Carson meant unjustly less to millions of television viewers than the formidable, aggressive Ena Sharples of *Coronation Street*. The hair tightly screwed into a hairnet or obtrusive curlers, the admirable punctuality with which she responded to the licensing laws, her excoriating tongue, her inability to keep her nose out of other people's business, her readiness to offer advice disguised as flagrant aggression or to offer flagrant verbal aggression without the excuse of advice, these were Ena Sharples, the reality.

Miss Violet Carson (the "Miss" was obligatory, as it was for Gracie Fields, whenever she was called to appear in Independent Television's *Stars on Sunday* to dispense religious words and high intentions) never really challenged the splendid monster that Miss Carson and a number of clever script-writers had created for her to embody.

This, of course, was anything but fair to a very talented entertainer-pianist, actress and singer.

Violet Carson was born in Manchester, the daughter of a Scottish miller, in a street which might, we are told, stand as a model for the later *Coronation Street* itself. Her parents were musical and saw to it that she played the piano – her sister took up the violin – to such effect that at the age of 15 she became pianist with the orchestra of a Manchester cinema.

Married in 1926, she was widowed two years later and returned to the piano, playing in cinemas and at small concerts and social evenings to earn her living.

In 1935 she joined the BBC in Manchester and became known as a pianist, as a singer of everything from popular ballads to operatic arias, and as "Auntie Vi" on the then North Region's *Children's Hour*.

In 1946 she joined Wilfred Pickles quiz show, *Have a Go!* as pianist, became one of the interviewers and an occasional panellist in *Women's Hour* and eventually an effective character actress in radio plays; it was as an actress that she reached television in the 1950s.

The birth of *Coronation Street* – one of Granada Television's most powerful inspirations – in 1960 introduced Violet Carson to her *alter ego* Ena Sharples and made her a star whose skill responded without strain as the serial developed. She was highly convincing as the unredeemed dragon embodying the south-country myth of the aggressively rude northerner who confuses gentleness and courtesy for hypocrisy and cowardice. Within the limits of Ena Sharples, Miss Carson created a characterization which could never be faulted.

Television has, perhaps, tended to overshadow the pleasures of what used to be called "the wireless" which nourished many older readers. It is sometimes forgotten how versatile were the performers who had more than one string to their bows; for example Violet, who was acting character parts long before television had become universal, on one occasion, called *Violet's Day Out*, played a piano concerto with the BBC Northern Orchestra; sang a piece from Bizet's *Carmen*; accompanied herself in a classical aria and rounded the whole performance off with some rollicking choruses from old-time music hall.

She once said, a trifle sadly, "I don't want to be Sharples – that old bag – all my life. I want people to remember I'm Violet Carson."

HERBERT van THAL

Herbert van Thal, man of letters, publisher, editor, anthologist and writer, died on December 23 at the age of 79.

Herbert Maurice van Thal was born in London in 1904, and educated at St Paul's School. His whole life was dedicated, in one form or another, to books; and the justest epitaph for him is certainly that he was one of the last keepers of standards in the popular field in which he made his living.

He was very well read, especially in Victorian literature. Lunch as his guest at the Reform Club with him was invariably, for a fellow author, a treat: old-fashioned courtesy, helpful advice, and good conversation about books.

Van Thal had been a literary agent. For some time after the Second World War he managed his own publishing company, Home & Van Thal. In more recent years he was best known as an editor, particularly of the *Pan Horror Stories* series, in which hundreds of thousands of readers received the benefit of his legendary wide reading and his refusal to select pulp fiction whenever there was better available.

He edited the Doughty Library for the publisher Antony Blond in the 1960s; this reprinted readable Victorian classics, and, in particular, it made Wilkie Collins's novel *No Name* available to a new generation of readers.

When this project ceased, van Thal invited the editor of a similar series under the auspices of a different publisher to lunch in order to hand over to him the list of books he would have added to his own series, and to talk about 19th century novels. Such was the man's generosity and love of books.

He was also editor of Cassells First Novel Library.

His own books included *The Tops of the Mulberry Trees*, (1971), *Belloc: A Biographical Anthology* (1970), *Landor: A Biographical Anthology* (1973), and *The Music Lover's Companion* (1971).

Herbert van Thal was married to the former Phyllis Mary Bayley. He was one of the last genuine "bookmen", and as such, and for his geniality, modesty and wide knowledge, he will be sadly missed.

PROF J. van LOHUIZEN de LEEUW

A correspondent writes:

Friends in many countries will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Professor Johanna (Joan) Engelberta van Lohuizen de Leeuw at the age of 64. She was one of the leading European historians of Indian and Southeast Asian art.

Joan van Lohuizen was an indefatigable traveller and worker. Her interests and researches led her to all the countries of South Asia and to many of Southeast Asia. During 1983 she made no less than three short excursions to Gilgit, Ladakh and Indonesia. She took on a tremendous burden of teaching and many undergraduates and research students have reason to be grateful to her. She gave unstinting help and advice to students and colleagues alike.

She had an encyclopaedic knowlege of the art history of South and Southeast Asia: her judgment and authority on works of art of all periods were extraordinary. She was well known as a lecturer throughout Europe and from 1954-61 was a visiting lecturer at the Sorbonne.

She was born in Amsterdam and studied at the universities of Leiden and Utrecht. After holding posts at Groningen and Utrecht, she was from 1951-59 University Lecturer in Indian art and archaeology at Cambridge and her enthusiastic affection and respect for Cambridge dated from that time. In 1959 she returned to Amsterdam as Professor, a post which she held until her death.

In Amsterdam she established the Institute of South and Southeast Asian Archaeology and was its Director until 1976. During that time she built up a splendid Library and photographic collection. She returned to Cambridge in 1977 for a year's visiting fellowship at St Edmund's House.

Two of her further contributions deserve special notice. When a meeting was called in Cambridge in 1970 to establish a biennial conference of South Asian Archaeologists in Western Europe it was natural that she should have played a leading role, a role which she subsequently maintained by agreeing to act as permanent secretary for the conference.

In 1978 she became one of the founding trustees of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, and planned to return to Cambridge after her retirement in 1984 so as to take a more active part in promoting the trust.

Her death robs the world of an unrivalled scholar, and those who knew her of a dear and loyal friend.

THE ARTS

The Arts Council must now renounce the faith of 40 years' work and adopt an altogether different role for the future. **Bryan Appleyard** investigates the threat – and the promise

A time for philosophy, but not for battle

It was a year in which the Arts Council finally decided it had to reach its fortieth birthday in 1985 with a degree of dignity.

Until 1983 the old orthodoxy prevailed: public subsidy of the arts should increase annually, cash should be ready to "respond" to new developments, centres of excellence would spread across the nation while the identity of the fringe was preserved. In essence the Council was the primarily passive purveyor of the old welfare benevolence.

But for years the cash squeeze had been intensified. Money had stopped increasing, although the entire strategy of the Council dating back to the first chairmanship of Keynes was based on growth. Vast investments in bricks and mortar had to be serviced, but at the same time the continuous clamour on behalf of new projects had somehow to be damped down.

It was primarily an organizational problem which could not be solved simply by resorting to campaigns for more cash. Such campaigns were inevitably weakened by the spectacle of the effects of public spending cuts elsewhere – opera and ballet have always had trouble opposing their claims to those of the medical profession for kidney machines. Yet still the left demanded Tory blood: the arts were socially desirable activities which a wicked Government was trying to crush. The subtle changes which took place in the relationship between the Government and the Council in 1983 were once again reduced to rows about more or less cash.

What the Left should have understood and the Council now finally seems to have taken on board is that the Government does not want to cut money to the arts. Its mood has changed from indifference to mild enthusiasm. Efforts are being made to compile real statistics to show what really goes on. Total turnover figures for the arts and all peripheral industries have been put as high as £3-£4,000m.

The initial inspiration for this change was the Select Committee Report published in 1982. The seriousness with which this took the arts as an industry and badge of national prestige began to turn the tide. It became clear that, far from simply being another unacceptable drain on the public purse, the arts had some splendid Tory virtues. *They stimulated all kinds of markets* and they offered a tangible "weight" to our national image.

Then along came Clive Priestley with his scrutiny of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company. This was the Select Committee's ruminations made flesh, right down to the cost of underskirts at Covent Garden. With almost unseemly relish the virtues of the arts were endorsed and with embarrassing enthusiasm the two companies were given more or less clean financial bills of health.

The Arts Council was all but speechless – not least because both reports had edged towards demanding radical changes in its own position. Both thought it was too centralized and both suggested it should have less overall control over *the flow of funds to the national* companies. When the Government's reorganization proposals for the local authorities came along, requiring major changes in the funding structure of dozens of companies, the penny finally dropped. The Council had to go with the *flow* or risk a fight that it could not win. A new orthodoxy had to be adopted.

This began with the consultative programme dreamed up at Ilkley and involving all the Council's annual clients. The next phase was the negotiation of the total grant for 1984-85, which was announced last week. The key to this was to exploit the Priestley enthusiasm by raising extra money for the ROH and the RSC and the regional opera companies. And there was too the small overall increase.

Several things have not yet been spelled out. First the ROH and the RSC will be expected to implement the handful of Priestley-recommended economies during 1984-85. Thus in 1985-86 they will probably receive no further increase as the economies will be expected to account *for* inflation. Also less overall cash will be available to the rest of the clients because the Council will be holding a larger reserve than usual – perhaps £1m as opposed to £250,000.

And this is where the grand strategy comes into effect. By March, just before the beginning of the new financial year, the results of the Ilkley consultation will be known. A policy will be evolved which will help some companies rather than others: there will always be some foundering on financial rocks. Those favoured in the policy will be rescued by the larger reserve fund, those not will have to sink or keep afloat without further aid.

That takes the Council up to March 1985, when the entire Ilkley strategy can be implemented. A new, pruned client list will be announced. In addition the much-recommended decentralization will take place as a result of Government moves to draw local authorities into funding those companies left out of the "national importance" list in the plans to disband the top tier councils. With luck these moves will come out in March 1984, providing Lord Gowrie and the Council with a large and very positive package of innovations.

But blood will be spilt fairly steadily over the next two years. There will be insolvencies next year and many howls of protest in 1985. Yet in the long term the restructuring may result in more money and more companies. Certainly, if the decentralization side works, it will lead to more sustained pressure for greater artistic equality across the regions.

Meanwhile the Arts Council will be able to get on with its rather more dignified role of grand strategist, lobbyist and philosopher to the world of subsidized culture. It should move out of the bear-pit into rather more refined surroundings and it will also mean fewer staff. Overall the cost of abandoning the faith of the first 40 years will be high; the Council should console itself with the thought that the cost of not doing so would be higher.

Galleries in Los Angeles

Collectors in exciting context

There has been talk of the need for a museum of modern art in Los Angeles for almost as long as there has been of the need for a definitive Hollywood museum. At present it seems that the museum of modern art will make it first: at any rate, the Temporary Contemporary has opened in the Little Tokyo district just east of Downtown and the Music Centre – a slum area which is in the midst of a spectacular facelift and artification, with new SoHo/Wapping style loft galleries appearing every week.

The Temporary Contemporary has been surrounded by a blaze of publicity which leaves the locals eager to visit and desperately vague about exactly where it is: finally I found a policemen who knew because it is housed in what used to be the major downtown police garage. The space is spectacular: high and open, covered by a great single-span ceiling supported here and there with diagonal struts which have been cunningly made into quasi-sculptural features, and still retaining mysteriously mouldering pulleys and other possibly movable parts which are not always easy to distinguish from the sculptures of Kienholz, Stella or Beuys strategically placed beneath. It is planned that this shall be the home of MOCA (it seems appropriate that conversationally MOMA in New York is a looming maternal presence, while MOCA in Los Angeles sounds like a flavour of ice cream) for two years, until its permanent home, designed by Arata Isozaki for nearby Bunker Hill, is ready.



German Expressionist eye-opener: *Youth Rising from the Dead* by Milly Steger

For outsiders the First Show at MOCA (until February 19) is likely to be rather less exciting than the context in which it is placed. The emphasis is for once primarily on the collector: eight collections have been drawn upon, all formed between 1940 and 1980, and each representing a different stratum of taste. Some, like the Schreiber collection, are firmly based on artists who emerged as modern classics during the 1950s – Pollock, Staël, Giacometti and so on – while others bring the story right up to date, with the Panza di Biumo collection strong on the conceptual and minimal, and the Saatchis showing primarily from their holding of Transavanguardia/Zeitgeist artists like Chia, Kiefer, Clemente and Schnabel. The result is that we are given a quick conspectus of what has been going on in the arts internationally for the last four decades as well as an intriguing sidelight on the ways that collecting taste develops. If the Temporary Contemporary can keep up this standard until it moves into its permanent home, it should be guaranteed knowledgeable and enthusiastic support from 1986 on.

Meanwhile, though there seems to be no reason why any kind of competitive situation should exist, the County Museum has been put on its mettle, and has come up with a really epoch-making show: the first major exhibition anywhere in the world devoted exclusively to **German Expressionist Sculpture** (until January 22). Coming in the wake of a number of ambitious shows devoted to Expressionist painting and to individual painters of the movement, this show is bound to seem, at first blush, like a minor annexe, a footnote it may be interesting to read if you can be bothered to turn to *the back of the book*. But that would be radically to underestimate it.

We probably know that many of the Expressionists interested themselves in more than one art-form, so it is no great surprise to encounter sculptures by artists we know best in other media, though it may well be surprising to find how confident and expressive are the sculptures of, say, Nolde, Kollwitz or Kirchner, or even that Schmidt-Rottluff emerges as an infinitely more interesting sculptor than painter, with a particularly personal and accomplished use of applied colour.

But the real eye-opener of the show is the work of those who specialized in sculpture to the virtual exclusion of other forms. We have heard of Barlach and Lehmbruck (though chances of seeing their work in the original are not necessarily so frequent), but who knows anything much (or anything at all) about artists such as William Wauer, shown here with a number of brilliantly conventialized portrait heads, or Milly Steger, whose few surviving sculptures suggest that she was the most talented of the several talented women represented, or the short-lived Hermann Scherer, whose large painted wooden figures carry furthest and most powerfully the Expressionist proccupation with the effects of African and Oceanic carving?

All of these artists come fresh to us, often with their most important surviving works, and the collection, superbly displayed, is usefully supplemented by parallel graphic works and photographic records of the missing and destroyed.

John Russell Taylor

Anthony Masters discovers just how much theatrical London is missing

Critical need for the enjoyable sense of occasion

No slight to London, but the best single thing about progressing from theatre addict to theatre critic is the discovery, at first hand, of the dramatic pleasures outside the capital which you always knew were there. Only critics, agents and management scouts have the privilege of seeing London, pampered as it is with a wealth of West End and fringe theatre, in context – and then only partially. Reports from friends in places like Ipswich and Derby suggest that we miss a good deal by not seeing how well the humbler companies do Ayckbourn, the odd Shakespeare, *Educating Rita* or even *Bent*. But there are also bigger events to grab the attention: a Michael Elliot production of Ibsen in Manchester, Arthur Miller and Arnold Wesker premières in Birmingham, striking new plays about Richard II (Exeter) or football (Southampton), or a Howard Barker political blockbuster in Sheffield.

Only one of those "major events" has so far come to London. The West End's increased reliance on imports from out of town is obvious enough: handsome Chichester transfers at the Haymarket, *Daisy Pulls It Off* from Southampton, *Dear Anyone* from Birmingham, as well as contributions from Hampstead, the Hammersmith theatres, Greenwich, the King's Head and (of course), Broadway. But too much that is good in British theatre outside London never travels even a few miles.

When the National's cutbacks ended its regular use of the Lyttelton and Cottesloe as intermittent transfer houses in *1977*, it was not only the end of a crucial connexion – in the Lyttelton's case – with foreign theatre which carried the torch from Peter Daubeny's World Theatre Seasons at the Aldwych and had already, in only two years, brought visits from Nuria Espert, the Berlin Schaubühne and the Théâtre National Populaire. It had also picked plums from other British theatres – Shakespeare and Ben Jonson productions by Stuart Burge from the Birmingham Rep, *Illuminatus* from Liverpool, showings by the Manchester Library and the Leicester Phoenix, to say nothing of the Glyndebourne *Don Giovanni*.

As a consequence, London's taste of regional quality is now more and more restricted to what looks commercial. Some transfers, like *84 Charing Cross Road*, achieve the success they deserve; others, like *When the Wind Blows* or *Nuts* or Mike Harding's delightful *One Night Stand*, fail to survive. But the really big fish get away altogether.





Jonathan Hackett and Sally Cookson (left) in the Royal Exchange's *Wild Duck*, more successfully cast and satisfying as a whole than anything London could manage; and Anna Keaveney and Miles Anderson in Bristol Old Vic's *Love for Love*, a major play unperformed in London for almost 20 years

The classics, for example. Alan Badel in Sartre's comedy *Kean*, a decade ago, was rightly judged a good commercial bet for Shaftesbury Avenue, but it arrived without his equally interesting performance as Othello, which ran aptly in tandem with it at the Oxford Playhouse. Now that classical productions at the National and the RSC seem to come increasingly from a small circle of names whose traits and personal stamp (and in some cases shortcomings) are already familiar, we need more than ever the shock of the new. Bristol Old Vic's dark and serious 1979 revival of *Love for Love*, a major play unperformed in London for almost 20 years, brought together a then unfamiliar director (Adrian Noble), excellent designs and actors like Miles Anderson and Sheila Ballantyne at their best: the result was a highly individual production calculated to remain in the memory ever since.

Similarly, Michael Elliott's production of *The Wild Duck* earlier this year at Manchester's Royal Exchange with Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Hackett was more successfully cast and satisfying as a whole than either the National or the Lyric, Hammersmith, could manage with the same play. Here, of course, one feels the loss of the Round House, whose special relationship with the Royal Exchange brought transfers, in the last few years, of some exceptional work including the Vanessa Redgrave *Lady from the Sea*, *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The Family Reunion*. Recent visits to the Royal Exchange suggest that it is going through a poor patch just now. But London should have seen that *Wild Duck* – which could only have been staged in the round – and the Round House's demise, even if some sort of resurrection is impending, also cuts off budding connexions with other major theatres like the Glasgow Citizens' (not, however, at their best when they came) and Alan Ayckbourn's company from Scarborough.

Even more important, those escaping "big fish" I mentioned earlier include a valuable number of large-scale new plays. The combined capability of the brave Royal Court, a few other theatres like the Half Moon and Greenwich, and the National and RSC for staging ambitious large-cast premières does not add up to much. London missed its chance with *Just a Kick in the Grass*, finally staged at Southampton after Bromley was foiled at the eleventh hour. And with *Two Planks and a Passion*, a subtle, amusing and buoyantly original historical play commissioned by the Northcott at Exeter.

Unlike a London impresario, the director of a theatre outside London will know his audience as intimately, sometimes as ruefully, as his own family and his eye will be firmly fixed on it. Sometimes that is a frustrating limitation; few theatres can escape their due tribute to Agatha Christies and canyfloss comedies. But it can also provide a sense of function and purpose: perhaps staging work of local interest, often historical, like the Vic at Stoke-on-Trent or indeed the RSC's unforgettable *The Dillen* this summer at Stratford-upon-Avon; perhaps (and this really should be compulsory) giving a vivid production of each year's O-level and A-level Shakespeare play which will pack the house.

Of course many out-of-London productions are not the same even if they do come in. *Blood Brothers*, which looked so crude and tatty down here, clearly would have had more atmosphere and significance in Liverpool even if had not had the ecstatic full houses there that it did in fact enjoy. Oldham, despite being an awkward place to get to and offering the traveller little choice in hospitality (Mr Ronay's indfatigable inspectors recommend no establishment to stay or eat in), has the warmest, most appreciative atmosphere I have found in any theatre – the friendly, excited feel of the Richmond Theatre is the nearest the London area can offer. But, after a hilarious evening there with Bill Tidy's *The Great Eric Ackroyd Disaster*, I doubted whether even that product would travel.

The alert sense of occasion which is ready for enjoyment but not uncritical: that is what I miss in London audiences (every night of the week, not just the artificially hysterical first-nighters) and that is what we need, as much as all the good productions London is missing out of town. How do we get it?

Television

Classical magic

Thames's musical version of Kenneth Grahame's **Wind in the Willows**, adapted by Rosemary Anne Sisson and imaginatively animated by Cosgrove Hall Productions, proved once again last night that magic can be safely sought in the classics which, with a little invention – and there was much of that here – can be rewardingly refurbished.

Cosgrove Hall have deservedly won awards for their previous animations and a series of 13 20-minute episodes on *Willows* is in preparation. The models here were excellent and the animation was superb. The composers, Keith Hopwood, former lead guitarist for Herman's Hermits, and Malcolm Rowe, scored it well, seeking appropriate inspiration in the English pastoral themes of Vaughan Williams and, for Toad, in the cheekily jaunty rhythms of the Edwardian music-hall.

The voices for Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad – Richard Pearson, Ian Carmichael, Michael Hordern and David Jason respectively – were well chosen. Miss Sisson was fairly faithful to the original; but whereas that left us with "an altered Toad", cautioned by his experiences into a less flamboy*ant lifestyle*, this version found him incorrigible. It left him at the end with a new obsession, aeroplanes, a legitimate twist perhaps but not quite necessary. Apart from that slight quibble, full marks to Thames and the producers, Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall.

It was a pity, Christmas schedules being not all that fertile, that it overlapped another excellent animation on Channel 4 of George Eliot's **Silas Marner** by another prize-winning British animator, Alison de Vere.

BBC2 pledged its peak time to the Bard with **The Two Gentlemen of Verona**, directed by Don Taylor, who has apparently cherished an ambition to do the play since university. The advance publicity referred to it as a much under-rated play. If that is indeed the case, I thought that this production did nothing to invite re-appraisal.

Coming as it did three days after *The Comedy of Errors*, it invited comparison and fell further by it. The two gentlemen, John Hudson as Valentine and Tyler Butterworth as Proteus, had much earnestness, which gleamed rather obtrusively from the oft-popped eyes of the former, but little conviction. The girls, Tessa Peake-Jones as the constant Julia and Joanne Pearce as Silvia, did better, inclining one to reflect that maturity may indeed come earlier to the female of the species.

Against the acting and invention of *Errors*, this production paled. Even its sets indicated a lack of investment and the forest looked more like a garlanded waterworks than a refuge for outlaws. Not a good night for poor William.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Hi-de-Hi!

Victoria Palace

It is Ugly Bug Ball Night at Maplin's (anything to amuse the happy campers): never-quite-made-it ballroom dancing champions Barry and Yvonne Stuart-Hargreaves (Barry Howard and Marie Lorraine) wear frosty smiles as Lord Stick-Insect and Lady Praying Mantis, the twins play caterpillars, Mr Ben Warriss (taking over Uncle Benjamin) staggers on as a spider, and dotty little Peggy (Su Pollard) temporarily abandons her Omo and Windolene to star as the front legs of a centipede. I cannot remember what started it all, or the pass-the-jerry competition that sends Miss Pollard off in an ambulance with a pot wedged over her curly brows just above the spectacles, but it hardly matters. You know you are among friends.

At its best, Jimmy Perry's and David Croft's writing in the television series has been so good that I hoped they would devise a proper full-length comedy weaving all these great characters together. Not so; maybe next Christmas? This show does wander from one production number to the next with less plot than you would get in a usual half-hour episode, but you seldom notice. The poinsettias and microphones clustering round the Victoria Palace proscenium, not to mention Bert Swanley and the Debonaires bouncing through 1959 hits, bring holiday-camp showtime at Crimpton-on-Sea to life too horribly to allow any but the briefest glimpses of backstage intrigue.

As the long-suffering Jeffrey Fairbrother, Simon Cadell first appears as a latter-day Cambridge archaeology professor numbly recalling the mad impulse that briefly led him to launch himself as entertainments manager among this motley crew. Introduced in quick succession to Miss Pollard's buckets and the throbbing heart of Gladys Pugh (Ruth Madoc), he brings a creative imagination to bingo-calling ("On its own, 41!") but comes into his own presently as Noël Coward singing "Mad Dogs and Englishmen".

That sequence, with all the prinicpals doing yesteryear star impersonations, hardly comes off. But in no time the fledgling comic (Jeffrey Holland), discarding earlier attires as a giant sauce bottle or a missionary in a cauldron, reappears as a fairy godmother granting a vision of former jockey Felix Bowness winning the Derby, tubby quiffed MC Paul Shane doing his Elvis bit, and the Stuart-Hargreaveses (underused in this show) at the Albert Hall, taking her 862 yards of nylon net and his undone flybuttons triumphantly in their stride.

Anthony Masters

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 19. Dealings End, Dec 29. § Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

THE WEEK AHEAD

US banks may write off some foreign loans

New York (NYT) – The Federal Reserve Board has proposed that American banks be required to write off portions of loans to countries that are in serious financial trouble. Similar proposals are being issued by the other federal bank regulators.

Under the proposals, banks would be required to write off 75 per cent of the value of their loans to Zaire, 50 per cent of their loans to the Sudan, 15 per cent to Poland and Nigeria and 10 per cent to Bolivia.

Since total loans by American banks to these nations are relatively small, and since most banks are believed to have already written off portions of them, the proposals would have a small impact on this quarter's bank earnings. Some officials indicated, however, that the effect might be significant on some institutions.

The proposals call for the banks either to write off portions of loans or to set up reserves against them. As these reserves could not be included in the banks' capital accounts, and funds allocated to such reserves would be subtracted from the banks' earnings, the practical effect of establishing such a reserve would be equivalent to writing off the loan.

But Mr James McDermott, chief analyst for Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, which specializes in bank stocks, said that for this quarter, "we don't look for any material earnings consequences for banks as a whole if the proposals are adopted".

The consequences could have been much greater if the authorities had determined that the banks should write off portions of loans to such financially troubled countries as Brazil and Argentina, where much larger amounts are involved.

But some analysts said the regulators' new thrust might encourage banks to write off troubled international loans more quickly than they have in the past, which could reduce near-term earnings.

A big concern of many bankers, however, was that for the first time the regulators are making broad-based credit decisions. Until now, bank regulators scrupulously sought to avoid being placed in that position, although their examiners at times disagreed over the quality of particular credits.

"We have argued philosophically against this approach," said Mr Donald G. McCouch, executive vice-president of Manufacturers Hanover Trust.

But in its press releases, the Fed said that present bank procedures do not always reflect the reduced quality of these credits and do not account for them uniformly. The Federal Reserve also stressed that an important reason behind the proposals was to create a uniform system of accounting

Mr McCouch argued, however, that the regulators were unjustified in treating country credits more vigorously than domestic loans.

The reschedulings of the past 18 months have been unusual, but considering the excellent history of the credit quality of foreign loans, the singling out of sovereign credits for special treatment is not justified, he said.

The regulators had little choice, however. The proposals were required by the International Lending Supervision Act, which became law on November 30.

The public has until January 11 to comment on the proposals, which the Fed said it expects to adopt by the end of January. But even if the proposals are changed at that time, they would be retroactive to the fourth quarter of 1983.

ECONOMIC VIEW

SEC approves interest device

Washington (NYT) – The Securities and Exchange Commission has unanimously approved an accounting device to let companies dress up their financial condition and show higher earnings by wiping long-term debt off their balance sheets.

The device, called in-substance corporate defeasance, allows companies to buy government securities to reduce their balance sheet debt by an equal amount. Analysts said the technique would appeal primarily to companies with cash to spare and a lot of low-interest debt on their books.

"We expect a lot of companies will be doing defeasance transactions", Miss Patricia McConnell, a limited partner and certified public accountant at Bear, Stearns & Company, said.

The technique has caused concern among some accountants and regulators who say that it allows companies to create instant, unrealized profits.

The SEC, concerned about the proliferation of defeasance transactions without a formal ruling by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, temporarily banned the technique in August 1982.

Last month, the FASB approved the technique

Under the method, a company seeking to reduce the debt on its balance sheet uses available cash to buy Treasury or government-guaranteed securities. These are then placed in a trust account, and pledged to pay the interest and principal of the debt as it comes due.

The difference between the book value of the debt removed from the balance sheet, and the cost of the securities placed in the trust, equals the likely gain that flows into the company's income statement.



FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

1983 Awards for Business and Related Arts

Few would argue that outstanding performance or meritorius achievement, in any walk of life, should go unrecognized. Sportspersons, entertainers, civil servants, contributors to party funds – all are liberally honoured; but unless they come into one or more of these categories, bankers and businessmen, financiers and men who move markets, tend to be overlooked. Yet who can say their contributions to our lives is less worthy than feats on the running track or stunning parts in costly TV advertisements? *The Times* Awards for Achievement in Business and the Related Arts are designed to fill a gap, indeed several gaps, including the gap between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. Our panel of judges is made up of two distinguished people, Dame Rosemary Unsworth and Lord Jonathan Davis, and myself.

The principal award, that for **Supreme Achievement**, was not too difficult. The judges decided quite quickly that the choice lay between Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who became Governor of the Bank of England on July 1st, and Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange. The panel finally came down in favour of Sir Nicholas, as we felt that with the Prime Minister sponsoring him, Mr Leigh-Pemberton probably had less of a struggle. Therefore, for plucking the Stock Exchange out of the fire of the Restrictive Practices Act, the Supreme Award went to Sir Nicholas.

The panel also thought it right that a **Special Mention** should go to the Minister responsible at the time for the fire, Mr Cecil Parkinson, who has already been proved a better prophet of the shape of things to come than anyone in the City itself.



Lord Hanson (left), Capitalist of the Year. Sir Campbell Fraser, for rhetoric.

The Capitalist of the Year might easily have been Mr Jeffrey Sterling, who finally rehabilitated Town & City; with a celebratory flourish renamed it Sterling Guarantee Trust; was special adviser to three Cabinet ministers (Mr Partick Jenkin, Mr Cecil Parkinson and Mr Norman Tebbit, whose ear he still has); and was made chairman of P&O in order to save it from Trafalgar House and Cunard. Both he and Mr Nigel Broackes (Trafalgar House) are certain to be strong contenders for the 1984 award, but this year the panel was unanimous: Lord Hanson is Capitalist of the Year. Hanson Trust's £260m takeover of the UDS stores group was an outstanding deal, in any year. The sale for £150m of UDS's unwanted businesses almost covers the £170m bid Hanson has made for London Brick.

The Poisoned Chalice went to the Midland Bank, whose expensive acquisition of the Crocker Bank in California proved more costly than anyone had feared when it was revealed in December that Crocker had moved into the red. The omens were not propitious when earlier in the year the (unrelated) First National Bank of Midland, a 93-year-old Texas bank, became the second largest failure in American banking history. The panel was convinced however that the Poisoned Chalice would not remain on the Midland's sideboard for more than a year.

Competition for the minor awards was fierce and the panel had great difficulty in selecting from several outstanding entries in each category. After hours of discussion and argument, the judges were agreed.

Rhetorician of the Year: Sir Campbell Fraser, president of the Confederation of British Industry, whose own company, Dunlop, signally failed to set an example to the rest of industry and, at year end, was struggling even to stay British.

The Golden Handshake: This award naturally attracted a strong entry, with *such outstanding claimants* as Mr William Fieldhouse (Carrington-Viyella) and Mr Jack Gill, whose £750,000 from Lord Grade's old Associated Communications Corporation, still qualified him for this year's award as the final sum is not yet settled. The winner however, by a neck, is Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, who received £180,000 but wanted more when he resigned from John Brown – on the very day this once famous engineering company confirmed that it has made losses totalling £26.7m.

The Most Lamented Departure of the Year is Lord Cockfield's from the Department of Trade where his consistently inconsistent rulings on takeovers and mergers are sadly missed. Runner up is Sir Peter Green, whose spell as chairman of Lloyd's gave "names", the Bank of England, the Inland Revenue and the public at large, their first real insight into the profitable workings of the world's best known insurance market.

Scientist of the Year: Mr Keith Hunt, the portly Warwick commodity broker who disappeared suddenly in April leaving investors who backed his sophisticated scientific analysis of commodity markets wondering if they had lost £8m.

Flop of the Year: The Telejector pub video deal, which was intended to provide exclusive in situ saloon bar coverage of Football League matches for the nation's pubgoers, but failed get off the ground, sending shares of London and Liverpool Trust, Telejector's operators, tumbling from a peak of £3.50 to just 24p. Runner up: The Nimslo camera, the 3D technological miracle that signally failed to *impress photographers.*



Robin Leigh-Pemberton (left), runner-up to Supreme Achiever Sir Nicholas Goodison.

Misjudgment of the Year: the decision by Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, to recommend acceptance of BAT Industries' 575p a share offer only days after he rejected, correctly, a rival bid from Allianz as "derisory".

Silver Lining Award: This also goes to Sir Denis Mountain, whose acceptance of the first BAT bid failed to prevent Eagle Star receiving two rival bids of 675p, with the market expecting still more. Sir Denis's own shareholding has risen in worth from £2.01m to £3.07m in just two months.

The Take over Artistry Award: Mr Owen Green, whose company BTR's audacious £6.50m bid for Thomas Tilling was *brilliantly judged and executed.* For its part in this campaign, Morgan, Grenfell is Merchant Bank of the Year.

The Most Original Takeover Tactic Award went, unanimously to, Mr Graham Llewellyn, former chief executive of Sotheby's who threatens to blow his brains out if the unwanted bid from the American carpetbaggers Messrs. Cogan a Swid or "Bubble and Squeak" as Christie's called them, succeeded. The panel decided to overlook the fact that Mr Llewellyn admitted later: "I was only bluffing'.

The award for ***The Most Expensive Business Lunch*** goes to Mr Ernest Potter, finance director of Cable & Wireless, whose eve-of-the-issue lunch with brokers Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee was widely credited with the unexpected flop of the Government's £275m Cable & Wireless share sale in November.. The wine and cigars alone, probably cost the Treasury that is the taxpayers, up to £25m of the anticipated proceeds.

The Easiest Money Award goes to Mr John Aspinall and Sir James Goldsmith, whose highly profitable casino Aspinall's Club lifted more than £12m profit from a handful of rich foreign gamblers and offered stags their safest bet for years when shares in the club were offered on the stock market.

The runner up who as a consolation receiver a special **Self-denying Ordinance Award:** Mr Stanley Grinstead of Grand Metropolitan, which had to take five times as much in bets from its casino patrons to make three times as much money as Aspinall's and yet nobly and succesfully argued before the Monopolies Commission that any increase in Grand Metropolitan's influence over the casino world would be against the public interest.



Sir Denis Mountain (left) takes two honours. Science award for Keith Hunt.

The Misplaced Optimism Award: goes to Mr George Helsby, chairman of Burnett & Hallamshire, who predicted "further substantial growth" in his chairman's statement in June. Three months later, Mr Helsby retired through ill health. The company's interim profits were halved and the share price dropped from a peak of 435p this year to 135p.

The Miracle Award goes to Mr Robert Maxwell for taking Oxford United into the Quarter finals of the Milk Cup and raising the British Printing Corporation, now *BPCC, from the dead.*

The judges were left with just two more awards. **The Saying of the Year**, especially as this award was sponsored by the Fleet Street *branch of the Society of Builders* (SOB) finally went to Lord Matthews for: "My views on the importance of honouring agreements are well known."

The Non-Event of the Year resulted in a triple tie: The panel found it impossible to distinguish between the International Banking Crisis, the collapse of Opec and a *takeover* bid for either Tricentrol or Burmah.

The judges' decisions are final and they regret they cannot enter into correspondence on the awards.

Takeover Panel working on simplified rulebook

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr John Hignett, outgoing director general of the City *Takeover Panel, says it is* planning to simplify its relebook next year. In an interview with *The Times* Mr Hignett said that work has started on *simplifying* the 81-page rulebook.

He said that a reworked rulebook, setting out the City's code on takeovers and mergers, will contain an easy-to-understand index and explanatory paragraphs at the beginning of the section which deals with the 41 rules.

Mr Hignett, who returns to Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, as a managing director of the corporate finance department after 2½ years with the panel, also promised that there will be some amplification in the panel's next annual report of its view on consortium bidding.

This follows the controversy over the bid by Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of Hawley *Group, for Cope Allman, the* packaging and leisure company. The panel allowed Mr Ashcroft to proceed with a tender offer for Cope to give him 29 per cent of the shares even though he had previously acted in concert with Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, who held 13 per cent of Cope's shares.

Critics feared that Mr Ashcroft would effectively control 42 per cent of Cope if the tender offer succeeded despite a panel assurance that no concert party existed.

Mr Hignett said that the panel took the view that each allegation that a concert party existed should be investigated separately. He said that it would be wrong for the panel to set an arbitrary time limit during which a concert party is assumed to exist after a bid has lapsed.

He said that the concert party might break up the next day, or the next year. But the onus must be on members of the consortium to prove that it no longer exists.

Mr Hignett said that his successor, Mr Timothy Barker, aged 43, a senior member of the corporate *finance team at* Kleinwort, Benson, had a challenging year ahead. Next year Mr Hignett predicts that there will be more American-*style arbitraging in bid situations.*

Mr Barker will continue the work which Mr Hignett began in combining the roles of director general of the Takeover Panel and of the new Council for the Securities Industrie, which is intended to become the ultimate watchdog of City affairs.

Early next year the council must act on the findings of the Gower Report on investor protection. Negotiations with the Department of Trade and Industry over the implementation of EEC directives on Stock Exchange affairs are also at an advanced stage.

● The reelection of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone as Japan's Prime Minister followed by the quick formation of a new government pushed share prices on the Tokyo stock market to a record high for the second day running yesterday, according to dealers in Tokyo. The market added 37.37 points to reach a record close of 9,883.94 after rising 141.72 the previous day. At one point in early trading the average stood even higher, at 9,901.45.

US lender to open UK office

By Our Financial Staff

Financial Corporation of America, the largest savings and loan association in the United *States, is setting up a London* office to sell its own certificates of deposit to European investors.

Savings and loan associations are broadly similar to British building societies.

Financial Corporation will use the London office as another way of funding its own mortgage lending on residential property in the United States. But it hopes eventually to establish a European market in secondary mortgages of the type that exists in the United States.

In the United States, Mortgages can be sold as tradeable securities. As mortgages have a known life, yield and good asset backing, they have been snapped up by the big pension funds as investments.

No such market exists in Britain but Financial Corporation, whose shares are quoted on the London stock market, hopes to introduce one in a few years. The new market will have to be in US mortgages to begin with because British building societies would find it exceptionally difficult to sell on their own mortgages.

Financial Corporation recently sold $2.6 billion (£1.75 billion) worth of mortgages in the United States to improve its liquidity, thus setting a record in size of deal.

Financier quits property deal

By Jeremy Warner

Mr Tom Whyte, who rose to prominence in the City in the early 1970s, has decided to pull out of the US property deal which was to have helped Thames Investment & Securities out of its difficulties.

Thames Investment & Se*curities was one of the first* companies to join the Unlisted Securities Market.

Yesterday Mr Whyte gave no reason for refusing to go through with the agreement signed in October to take over Thames Investment's part in a property development in Miami, Florida.

Thames recently announced a near £5m loss and a big boardroom shake-up after experiencing difficulties with the *$20m (£13m) Miami deal.*

Thames became involved in the venture at the beginning of the year when it entered into an agreement with City National Bank of Miami to buy the property to develop it with a joint partner.

But the joint partner refused to go ahead with the development leaving Thames unable to meet the $20m obligation to City National on its own. It was at this stage that Mr Whyte was brought in to allow Thames to withdraw from the obligation and all related professional fees.

Whether there is a contractual obligation on Mr Whyte to take over the development is unclear. The reasons for backing out will be released shortly, Mr Whyte said yesterday.

Thames has already written off its financial exposure to the Miami development. However, *Mr Whyte's withdrawal appears* to mean that the company will now not get back the $650,000 of deposits and costs already incurred on the project

Mr Whyte's withdrawal would also appear to mean that a payment of about $750,000, already written off against the accounts, will become payable

It appears that Mr Whyte's refusal to go through with the agreement cannot further harm the financial position of the company which recently appointed Touche Ross, a leading accountancy firm, to examine *its position. But it does mean* that sizeable clawbacks on provisions already made will now not take place.

The agreement with Mr *Whyte was interlinked with* a deal under which the former chief executive of Thames, Mr Joseph Benjamin, was given rights to a fifth of the venture's profits.

Mr Benjamin's continuing interest in the Miami venture would appear to be jeopardized

WALL STREET

Recovery hopes lift Dow

(New York (AP-Dow Jones) Stocks were sharply higher in early trading yesterday as *market watchers saw the beginning* of a year-end rally that could last into 1984. Trading was moderate.

The Dow Jones industrial *average rose nearly eight points* to over 1,258. Advancing issues were 7-to-4 ahead of declines.

"This week is traditionally a good week for the market" *according to Mr Malcolm* Wilson, vice president and director of equity research for the Provident National Bank. "The flash economic figures last *week indicated* that the economy is slowing to a level the Fed can live with.

"We feel the weakening in the market has reached an end.

General Motors was up ½ at 74¾; **Eastman Kodak** Rose ½ to 76; **IBM** was up ¾ to 124½ and **Teledyne** climbed ⅞ to 162.

Solid State Scientific fell 1¾ to 7. **Penn Central** was unchanged at 37⅛ and **Mattel** was up ⅛ at 5⅛. **Penn Central** said it would exercise its option to buy 52 per cent of Solid State from Mattel at $6.11 a share and would seek to buy remaining shares for the smae proce in a *merger.*

Among gaining issues, **Coleco** rose one to 21⅝ to 127 and **Motorola** one to 134½.

Trade mark delays worry retailers

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Threatened delays on extending trade mark protection to the service sector could mean heavy legal bills for retailers which could have been avoided.

The Retail Consortium, which represents more than 90 per cent of Britain's traders, is carrying out a survey to see how far the services sector is at risk.

It is also pressing the Government to change legislation quickly to avoid anomalies under prospective EEC changes; and to strengthen administration of trade marks to tackle a backlog on existing trade marks.

The Trade Marks Act 1938 allows only for registration of names for goods. It means services, typically a shop name, can only invoke common law protection by taking to court anybody adopting the same or similar name. This can be disproportionately costly. Because there is no registration of service marks it is difficult to *check on their use by others.*

EEC regulations on trademark protection, now planned, would only extend protection where there is complementary legislation in a member country.

A private Member's Bill introduced by Mr Stephen Dorrell, Conservative MP for Loughborough, aims to extend the 1938 Act's protection to service marks. It has just had its second reading in the Commons but it is queueing for committee stage time

Although the Government has indicated its support in principle for extending the scope of the existing Act, the consortium has been warned that a heavy backlog of *registrations could mean a delay* until 1987 before the service sector could be brought within the scope of the Act.

But the consortium argues that additional staff in the trade marks administration could be taken on without affecting spending ceilings. It says fees charged for registration could make staff expansion self-funding.

Shoe industry increases workforce by 3%

By Our Commercial Editor

The number of jobs in footwear manufacturing has risen nearly 3 per cent in just over six months as the recovery in sales has continued, according to the latest survey of the industry's trends by the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation.

But the survey adds that imports are increasing at a greater rate than improvement in British manufacturers' deliveries to the trade.

There are also signs of an increase in cost of raw materials which could signal price increases in the shops after showing only marginal rises so far this year.

The survey says that 600 jobs were created in September and there was an overall increase in jobs of 1,500 since last February.

Employees in British footwear manufacturing now total 52,300. A fifth of whom are now working overtime.

British shoemakers' deliveries are still at last year's levels but volume orders were up 1.4 per cent in October, with an overall five-month improvement of 7.2 per cent. Imports in October were up 7.7 per cent in volume although the five-month improvement at 2.6 per cent.

Italy, the biggest exporter, has shown a marginal decline during the first 10 months of the year but among other big exporters, Taiwan has registered a 60 per cent increase. Values of imports have risen sharply because more leather-uppered footwear is now coming in. This could be a threat to the British manufacturers whose strongest sector is more up-market.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ECGD set to back China loan

Britain is preparing to extend its first £1 billion export credit loan to finance a GEC deal with China for a nuclear power plant.

Formal negotiations between the British company and the Chinese authorities are scheduled to start on March 15, probably in Guandong province where the station is to be built.

The order to GEC, as supplier of turbines and gener*ators and prime contractors for* the British part of the plant work, could double GEC's own previous best when it secured a £500m order for the Castle Peak *B power station in neighbouring* Hongkong three years ago.

The plant, at Daya Bay, will cost a total of £3.1 billion, with the French group Framatone supplying two pressurized water reactors

Full details of the British financial package will not be known until the GEC talks are complete but a framework has been almost completed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg, the company's merchant bank advisers.

Although Britain's Export Credits Guarantee Department is expected to ensure the £1 billion buyer credit, the Bank of China is thought ready to act as a guarantor for the loan.

● A "huge" coal deposit has been discovered in Indonesia, according to the Korean Mining Promotion Corporation which said yesterday that the "high quality soft coal" deposit, estimated at 683 million tons, had been found in the Pasir field in Kalimantan. The reserves are worth an estimated $11.3 billion at the current market price (£7.8m).

The Korea-Indonesia Resources Development Corporation, a consortium of four groups, would begin mining the coal in 1986.

Shadow of divorce stalks Italians' US link

Is Olivetti the marrying kind?

From John Earle, Rome

The divorce rate between Italian companies and multinationals has always been high. *Will American Telephone and* Telegraph's $260m (£175m) purchase of a 25 per cent stake in Olivetti be the one to stay the course?

The British will remember how the partnerships broke up between Dunlop and Pirelli, and before that, Shell and Montecatini. Among other failures have been the links between Citroen and Fiat, and Occidental Petroleum and ENI's chemical sector.

Until recently, Olivetti itself was 33 per cent owned by Saint Gobain, but this link was cut after the French group was nationalized.

As Olivetti's chairman, Signor Carlo de Benedetti, made plain when he announced the deal before Christmas, the *timing and conditions have* been carefully thought out. A T and T has promised to allow Italian control and to respect Olivetti's European identity, *even though its shoreholding is* as large as that of the Italian controlling shareholders' syndicate. This consists of CIR, Signor de Benedetti's holding company, *in a dominant pos*ition, together with the public sector finance houses IMI, Mediobanca and Crediop, plus Pirelli. A T and T has six in the 21-member board, while Signor de Benedetti can veto the entry of any American Manager.

The Americans are limited to *their 25 per cent stake for the* first four years. After that, a divorce could be possible. Assuming the partnership goes *ahead, however, the Americans* are at liberty to increase their stake to 40 per cent in the following five years.

The tenth year will probably *be the key year. Few can foretell* what the pace of change will have been in the field of office electronics by then. But Signor de Benedetti, aged 49, has given an *assurance to stay* with Olivetti for 10 years.

When he entered, it was an ailing company which had failed to digest properly an earlier American acquisition, Underwood Typewriters. Now it claims eighth place on world markets of data procession and *office products,*

Allianz and BAT to talk

Talks are expected to begin today between Allianz Versicherungs of West Germany and BAT Industries in a last-ditch attempt to end their deadlock over their competing 675p a share takeover bids for Eagle Star, Britain's sixth largest insurer.

There has been nothing to date to indicate that the two sides will be able to reach an accord, and unless another party enters the battle for control this week, they will be forced by the City Takeover Panel to fight it out in a last minute auction on Friday, *December 30.*

STOCK EXCHANGES

Friday's close and change on week

FT Index: 775.0
FT Gilts: 83.15
FT All Share: 469.2
Bargains: not available
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.70
New York: Dow Jones Average: 1250.1
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,684.17
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 867.0
Amsterdam: 157.8
Sydney: AO Index 7[illegible]2.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1031.7
Brussels: General Index 136.44
Paris: CAC Index 15[illegible]6
Zurich: SKA General 312.80 unchanged

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week

LONDON

Sterling
$1.4330
Index 82.5
DM 3.9500
FrF 12.0850
Yen 335
Dollar
Index 130.3
DM 2.7565

NEW YORK

Sterling $1.4345
Dollar DM 2.7585

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.571481
SDR £0.728708

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 7/16-9 3/8

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10¼-10⅛
3 month DM 6 5/16-6 3/16
3 month Fr F 13 3/16-13 9/16

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $379.50 pm
close $379.75-380.50 (£265.50-266)
New York: $380.30
Krugerrand* (per coin):
$391.50-393 (£273.75-274.75)

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY – Interims: Bermuda International Bond Fund, Energy Finance and General Trust (amended), London Private Health Group, RTD Group *Finals:* None.

TOMORROW – *Interims:* Dollar Photographic, Stavert Zigomala. **Finals:** None.

FRIDAY – Interims: Arbuthnot *Dollar Income* Trust (revised interim dividend), H J B[illegible]. **Finals** None.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● USM REVIEW

Bumper trade with light casualties

[Aft]er an eventful 1983 the [stoc]k exchange's fledg[ling] Unlisted Securities [Market], which has grown [beyond the] wildest expectations [of its found]ers. [From a] humble beginning in [November] 1980, when 11 [companies] transferred from [the ...], the USM has sparked [the ambition] of small businessmen and entrepreneurs alike.

At the last count 204 companies were being quoted on the USM covering a spectrum of business activities from neutralizing industrial wastes to beauty competitions and dance studios. In 1980, a total of 23 companies joined the USM followed by 61 in 1981, and 62 in 1982. This year, the number of entrants has hit 88 and the queue for 1984 is growing.

The number of companies taking the step to a full listing stands at 17 and five more companies were taken out by bids. Fears that the high risk reward ratio of the USM would lead to tears have so far proved unfounded, although the real test will come when the Stock Exchange becomes embroiled in a raging bear market.

However, the market had had its casualties. Hesketh, the motorcycle manufacturer; Euroflame, I.O. Technology; and American Communications, all went under. But, by and large, the market has served its purpose to attract small companies and develop them as the first step to a full quote.

The Stock Exchange was quick to realize the need for a second tier to its existing system catering for companies too small to apply for a full listing, but in need of capital investment. It also served to head off the growing number of such companies joining the growing ranks of licensed dealers.

Some of the greenfield companies, which joined the USM naturally, have caused controversy. Nimslo, the 3-D camera group, has seen its share price hit the giddy heights of 275p, only to see it now languish at 23p.

Bio-Isolates has also had its fair share of critics. The shares which were placed at 33p in July last year, hit a high of 425p earlier this year as investors' imagination was fired with prospects for its process of turning dairy waste into protein. This was despite the fact that the group had never made a penny profit. But with the sudden realization that the expectations had been overdone the price collapsed overnight and after hitting a low of 63p, were last week trading at around 98p. This resulted in a call for stricter selection of newcomers.

But there have been some rich pickins for investors. **Datastream** has calculated the leaders and laggards for 1983. The best performance of last year goes to **Tops Estates**, the property company, which joined the market in January. Broker Quilter Goodison placed 415,000 shares at 10½p and has watched as the shares closed on Friday at 80p – a rise of 662 per cent. At this level the entire company is valued at £4m.

Admittedly, stock shortages are responsible for many of the big gains achieved on the USM and until the Stock Exchange raises the minimum amount of equity to be offered above 10 per cent the situation is likely to continue. Tops's nearest rival is metal basher **Parkfield Founderies** which, despite a rights in August, has seen the shares leap 521 per cent this year to 49p, at which level the group is capitalized at £2.45m.

Therte is also a strong representation from some of the smaller oil exploration outfits. **Bula Resources**, currently gaining fame in the Irish Sea, saw its shares improve 413 per cent to a high of 41p, while **Saxon Oil** managed a 352 per cent gain to 248p this year.

Of the worst performing shares of 1983 the title goes to **Breville Europe**, the toasted snack machine manufacture. The 8.3 million shares placed by broker Fielding Newsom-Smith at 90p ended the year compared with a price of 111p on January 1 – a fall of 72 per cent.

Big is not always beautiful as far as the USM is concerned. **Acorn Computers** the BBC home computer group, became the largest company to be quoted on the USM in September after a tender of 10 per cent of the equity (11.23 million shares) by merchant banker Lazards and broker Cazenove. The shares offered at a minimum tender price of 120p failed to attract support and after being struck at the minimum price hit a low of 103p.

There was criticsm that the issue had been over-priced and that the group's contract to use the BBC name on its computers might not be renewed. The BBC microcomputers accounts for 95 per cent of Acorn's business and four other companies have now made it clear they will be applying for the contract when it comes up for renewal next August. On Friday, shares of Acorn were unchanged at 121p – just 1p above the opening level in September.

Michael Clark

[Unlist]ed Securities

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Flogas	65	-1	2.5	3.9	..
	Framlington Grp	670	..	9.3b	1.4	18.0
	French Conn	143	+15	3.7	2.6	16.2
	Freshbake Foods	78	+2	1.2b	1.6	12.8
	Fuller Smith	390	-30	6.7	1.7	19.5
	Gable Hse Prop	65	+2	3.3	5.1	14.1
	Garfunkels	205	-5	2.7b	1.3	21.2
	Gee (Cecil)	120	-2	3.0	2.5	23.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8,769,000	NMW Computers	204	+19	5.7	2.8	22.7
8,283,000	New Ct Nat Res	25	..	1.7	6.8	9.8
4,383,000	New England Prp	19				
25.2m	Nimslo Int	23	-1	..	..	..
14.8m	Oilfield Inspec	210	..	3.4	1.6	19.3
14.8m	Owners Abroad	28½	+¼	0.7	2.5	12.8
6,654,000	PCT Group	154	+2	6.9	4.5	14.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Wight Collins RS	286	-2	3.6	1.4	21.7
	Willaire Syst	6	..			
	Wingate Prop	106	..	0.7	0.7	31.2
	Woodchester Inv	198	-2	5.6b	3.8	18.1
	Yelverton Inv	51	-5	..	..	82.3
	Yorkgreen Inv	29	..	2.0b	6.9	11.0
	York Mount	62	-1	7.1	11.5	6.6
	Zygal Dynamics	116	..	1.1e	0.9	18.1

● Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. e Corrected price. g Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

American notebook

Fed's freeze stays despite slow growth

Uncertainty about the course of the United States economy next year has not bee resolved by the publication of the fourth quarter national income statistics, which showed a marked slowdown in the rate of growth of the economy.

After rising at an annual rate of over 9 per cent in the second quarter and over 7½ per cent in the third quarter, the "real" gross national product rose at an annual rate of only 4.5 per cent in the fourth quarter.

This estimate gave much comfort to the monetarist economists who have been predicting that the Federal Reserve's freeze on banks' reserves – in operation since April – would stifle the recovery.

It was quickly pointed out by supporters of the Fed's policies that much of the deceleration in fourth quarter economic growth was due to the yawning gap in the United States' overseas trade balance, reflected in a very low figure for net exports in the GNP estimates. The Commerce Department also reported, however, that in the fourth quarter a slowdown in the growth of real consumption spending contributed to the overall drop in growth.

What seems clear is that the Federal Reserve officials were entirely unmoved by the announcement, despite another public plea from the United States Treasury – this from the Secretary of the Treasury Mr Donald Regan – for a more relaxed Federal Reserve policy.

Last Friday the Federal Reserve reported that money M1 fell $2 billion to $520.7 billion, a level merely 1.2 per cent greater than in the week of June 14, six months previously. The Federal Reserve also reported that the banks' adjusted reserves in the week of December 14 fell to $54 billion, the same level as in the second week of April. Thus, the Fed's restrictive policy is very much in place.

The financial markets have been less than delighted by the prolonged operation of this policy. Bond futures bid fair to end the year at a level represented by about 70 for the March 1984 T-bond contract. This contract peaked in 1983 at 78 in early May. Similarly, the S and P futures have been very weak.

When the issue of the future course of Federal Reserve policy is raised with Wall Street analysts, the view is almost invariably expressed that President Reagan will no doubt soon take the opportunity to tell Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that the central bank must ensure that monetary conditions do not halt the economy's forward progress to a point where the Republican Party's reelection chances are jeopardized.

President Reagan did appoint Mr Preston Martin to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Fed. However, Mr Martin has proved to be a supporter of traditional Federal Reserve policies.

Even recognizing these errors in the President's handling of the central bank, most Wall Street analysis cling to the belief that there will be a switch in Fed policy soon and that this will bring about a sharp reduction of US interest rates, a sharp drop in the dollar and a rally in the financial markets.

There is no indication whatever from the Federal Reserve that such a policy change is in the works.

Maxwell Newton

USM LEADERS FOR 1983

	Mkt Cap £'000	Latest Price	Price 1.1.83	% Change
Top Estates	4,000	80.00	10.50	662
Parkfield Fndrs	2,450	49.00	7.89	521
Bula Resources	38,269	41.00	8.00	413
Saxon Oil £0.5	42,234	248.00	54.88	352
Hartons Group	8,442	31.50	7.50	320
Consultants (C&F)	5,742	580.00	159.00	265
Twinlock	14,959	70.00	20.00	250
Pict Petroleum	7,080	118.00	43.00	174
VW Thermax	16,872	145.00	54.00	169
Micro BS Systems	35,360	260.00	100.00	160
Woodchester Invs	7,380	225.00	88.00	156
TV South N/V	19,213	79.00	31.00	155
Morland Secs	1,339	103.00	44.00	134
Yorkgreen Invs	3,219	29.00	13.50	115
Garfunkels Rests	9,573	205.00	99.21	107
Hadson Pet Intl	47,120	76.00	38.00	100
Morley RH Grp	975	35.00	18.00	94
Sheraton Secs	8,954	12.50	7.62	90
Baltic Leasing	33,062	289.00	156.00	85
Dunton Group	1,316	11.50	6.25	84
Webber Electro	5,769	238.00	130.00	83
Lond & Contl Adv	6,437	41.00	23.00	78
Utd Electronic	6,033	60.00	34.00	76
Rolfe & Nolan CS	3,450	138.00	80.00	72
Jayplant	1,063	30.00	17.50	71
Applied Botanics	6,707	16.00	9.40	70
Microfilm Reprog	2,652	78.00	47.00	66
Cluff Oil	10,033	88.00	53.23	65
Midland Marts	4,204	113.00	70.00	61
Air Call	23,652	438.00	271.48	61
Harvey & Thompson	2,104	67.00	42.00	60
Dencora	10,638	84.00	53.00	58
ICC Oil Services	11,437	26.50	17.00	56
Hunterprint Gp	12,243	148.00	95.00	56
Sovereign Oil	78,840	219.00	142.00	54
FII	17,250	115.00	75.00	53
Memory Computer	17,893	290.00	190.00	53
Guernsey Atl Sec	999	148.00	97.00	53
Kennedy Brookes	16,051	228.00	150.00	52
Aldcom Int'l	11,831	92.00	60.63	52

USM LAGGARDS FOR 1983

	Mkt Cap £'000	Price 1.1.83	Latest Price	% Change
Breville Europe	5,168	111.00	31.00	−72
Black (Michael)	1,685	128.00	41.00	−68
Bio-Isolates	8,037	270.00	95.00	−65
Humberside Elect	1,723	27.00	10.00	−64
London Pte Hlth	780	38.00	19.50	−49
Immediate BS Sys	8,167	232.92	121.00	−48
Acsis Jewellery	918	30.00	17.00	−43
Ecobric Hdgs	673	100.00	58.00	−42
Willaire Systems	896	10.00	6.00	−40
De Brett, Andre	3,280	66.00	41.00	−38
Hayters	2,930	200.00	125.00	−38
Berkeley Explrtn	6,429	100.00	63.00	−37
Edinburgh Secs	8,313	125.00	85.00	−32
Ecobric Hdgs Dfd	430	63.00	43.00	−32
Berkeley & Hayhill	2,537	12.73	8.75	−31
Thorpac Group	1,276	80.00	55.00	−31
Sheldon Jones	4,810	135.00	93.00	−31
Johnstones Paint	9,450	130.00	90.00	−31
Equipu	5,094	160.00	115.00	−28
Exeter Bldg	3,944	175.00	130.00	−26
Asprey & Co	43,500	975.00	725.00	−26
Trident Computer	1,500	80.00	60.00	−25
Pineapple Dance	3,780	132.86	103.00	−22
Jebsens Drilling	21,760	173.00	136.00	−21
Delmar Group	1,290	33.00	26.00	−21
Lon & Man Secs 8p	615	19.00	15.00	−21
York Mount Group	620	76.00	62.00	−18
Heelamat Hldgs	1,984	78.00	64.00	−18
Scan Data Intl	2,138	115.00	95.00	−17
Ruddle (G)	7,946	203.00	168.00	−17
Lon & Man Secs	3,474	18.50	15.50	−16
Druck Holdings	17,090	318.00	273.00	−14
Thames Inv & Sec	2,954	85.00	73.00	−14
Metal Bulletin	5,037	130.00	115.00	−12
New Court Nat RS	8,335	28.00	25.00	−11
Oilfield Inspctn	14,836	235.00	210.00	−11
Swindon Pte Hosp	1,401	110.00	100.00	−9
Fuller Smith 'A'	23,400	422.22	390.00	−8
Hadland Hdgs	2,075	70.00	65.00	−7
Business Comps	4,402	80.00	75.00	−6

Budget forecast assumes 4.5% growth in US

Washington (NYT) – President Reagan's next budget, for the 1985 fiscal year, will assume a strong 4.5 per cent growth of the economy next year, slightly higher inflation and slightly lower interest rates, the Administration said.

Unspecified, but implied in the figures, are *sharp* reductions in projected federal budget deficits, which is now running at about $200 billion £140 billion a year. Analysts said the figures assumed large tax increases in 1985 or 1986, which President Reagan has been resisting, and new reductions in government spending, which many in Congress oppose.

Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the President's council *of economic advisers described* the forecast as prudent and in line with history. But he said the calculations were conditional upon an end to the *fiscal stalemate*.

White House economic forecasts are frequently upset by Congress and by unexpected turns in the economy, but they are useful guides to an administration's budget and objectives.

The new forecast include assumptions until 1989. It assumes the economy will grow by 4.5 per cent from the fourth quarter of this year to the fourth quarter of 1984, and by 4 per cent a year thereafter until 1988.

The unemployment rate which was 8.2 per cent last *month*, would average 7.8 per cent next year, ending the year at 7.7 per cent, and dropping steadily thereafter, to 5.7 per cent in 1989.

The figures show an inflation rate, based on the price deflator in the gross national product, of 5 per cent from the fourth quarter of this year to the fourth *quarter next year. It would then* fall slowly to 3.5 per cent by the end of 1989. In the present quarter, the GNP deflator which takes into account changes in *patterns* of consumption, is expected to be 4 per cent.

Interest rates, according to Mr Feldstein, would decline *even faster than the inflation* rate, resulting in a reduction of the real interest rate, or the difference between the deflator and nominal interest rates.

US bank paid £330m from Iran

Washington (AP–Dow Jones) – The Bank of America has *received $472m (about £331m)* in a settlement of Iranian loans made before United States citizens were taken hostage by Iran more than four years ago.

The United States Treasury said it was the largest agreement *since an escrow account was set* up to handle private and government *claims against Iran* after the hostages were released in January, 1981. An escrow account is established by a person, or company, in the name of another.

The bank received its payment from the *$1.42 billion* escrow account established in the Bank of England.

In turn, the Bank of America has paid $289.1m to Iran's *central bank in settlement of the* country's claims against it. This was primarily for interest blocked on Iranian accounts after the takeover of the United States embassy in Tehran in November, 1979.

This means the net gain to Bank of America which is based in San Francisco and *is* the largest United States commercial bank by deposits was about $182.9m.

Mr Ray Toman, a Bank of America *spokesman, said the* settlement "frees us of the time, the thought and, to a certain degree, the legal expense that has gone into the protracted negotiations on this long-standing matter."

Financially, he said, "it will have a negligible effect on any profit or loss statement" since this money was in escrow and all of the settlement comes from money already paid out.

The US Teasury reports that *about $1.39 billion has been* paid out of the escrow account, *$616m* of which was paid to Iran by US banks, mostly for unpaid interest.

The Bank of America's settlement, on non-syndicated *loans, was the twenty-fifth* reached among US banks which made claims for *loans* outstanding when the hostages were taken.

Promotion at Rothmans

Rothmans International: Mr Leslie Sarl will retire as company secretary on Saturday. He will be succeeded by Mr Jeremy Campbell, who joined Rothmans in 1981 as assistant secretary.

APPOINTMENTS

J Bibby & Sons: Mr Leslie Young is to relinquish his position as chief executive on July 1, but will continue as *chairman*. Mr Peter Wood, managing director of the agricultural group, will succeed Mr Young as chief executive. Mr Ian Smith, chief executive of the feeds and seeds division, will succeed Mr Wood as *managing director of the agricultural group*, but will retain his responsibilities for the feeds and seeds division.

Fitch & Company: Mr Rodney Fitch (executive deputy chairman) and Mr Crispin Tweddell (development director) are to be joint managing directors. Mr Ron Baker is to *resign as managing* director, but will remain a non-executive director and act as consultant to the group. Mr Ian Cochrane (finance director) will assume on responsibility for production and administration.

Danks Gowerton: Mr David Watson has been appointed chief executive.

The Wine Development Board: Mr John Mostyn, a director of Harveys of Bristol and chairman of Cockburn Smithers, *has become a* director. He is also president of the Wine and Spirit Association.

Swiss bankers expect recovery in gold price

Zurich (Reuter) – Gold has been a bad investment for the past three years, but Swiss bankers forecast a gradual recovery in its price, in the second half of next year.

Gold *surged to a peak* of more than $850 per ounce in a few weeks of *1980*, bringing fortunes overnight to speculators and reinforcing a long-standing belief that you cannot lose money with gold.

But few *investments have* fared worse since. Not only does gold earn no interest or dividends, but those who bought is in the 1980 peak period have seen the value of their holdings more than halved.

In London gold is about $379.50 an ounce – a price little changed, while the *dollar's* value has soared.

Most of the Swiss bankers who trade *in Zurich*, one of the world's most important gold markets, believe the worst may soon be over for the metal.

Mr Mathis Cabiallavetta, of Union Bank of Switzerland, said: "The danger of a slump is now very slight, the present *trading range* at about $380 *may* be its lowest point for some time."

But Mr Arno Semadeni, of Swiss Bank Corporation, forecast "a powerful recovery in the gold price in the coming year."

There is a *return of confidence* because inflation is expected to accelerate again soon, reviving gold's attraction as a hedge against paper money's loss of value.

The bankers also believe the dollar and US interest rates must eventually fall from their present high *levels*, prompting a flow of capital out of American investments. Some of these funds can be expected to go into gold and push its price up.

Mr *Semadeni* said the large amounts of money which the Federal Reserve Board has been pumping into the American economy in order to help recovery over the past 18 months has created "an irreversible potential for inflation."

Mr Cabiallavetta believes, however, that the effect will take a long time to work through. He said: "a boom in gold prices could be brought about only by a rapid inflationary increase in international cost and price *levels*."

FIXED-INTEREST STOCKS

Stock	Per Cent		Buying Price	Yields Flat	GRY
DEBENTURE STOCKS					
Allied-Ly	7¼	88/93	79½	9.31	11.00
Bass	8½	87/92	86¾	9.78	11.08
BICC	7¾	90/95	79¾*	9.75	10.86
Blue Circle	9	92/97	87½	10.84	11.26
Courtaulds	7	82/87	89¾	7.87	11.64
Delta Gp	10¾	95/99	97½	11.19	11.28
Eng Prop	9¾	97/02	90¾	11.09	11.29
Euston Cen	10.40	92/97	95½	11.05	11.25
Inv Ind	7¼	88/92	80*	9.04	10.74
Land Secs	9	96/01	86½	10.65	11.01
MEPC	12	17	109	11.20	11.28
Trusthse	10¾	91/96	97¾	10.97	11.13
UNSECURED LOANS					
Allied Ly	7¾	93/98	74¾	10.28	11.14
BOC Group	12¾	12/17	104¾	12.11	12.10
Barcl Bank	16	02-07	130	12.48	12.15
Burmah Oil	8½	91/96	79½	11.06	12.13
Imp Brew	10½	90/95	94*	11.08	11.33
Distillers	7¾	88/93	77½	9.46	11.39
Distillers	10½	93/98	87½	11.10	11.25
Guard Roy	7	86/91	79	8.87	11.06
Imp Chem	7¾	86/91	80½*	9.11	11.41
Imp Chem	10¾	91/96	95½	11.11	11.25
Imp Group	10½	90/95	96¾	11.09	11.32
Midl Bank	14	02/07	115¾	12.20	11.99
Nat West	12½	04	105¾	11.86	11.80
Reed Inter	7½	96/01	73½	10.32	11.32
Tilling	8½	89/94	83½	10.35	11.45
Unilever	7¾	91/06	71¼	10.85	11.27
Whitbread	7¾	95/99	71¼	10.31	11.82
BULLDOGS					
Denmark	13	12.05	105*	12.31	12.35
Elec de F.	12½	08	107¾	12.07	12.04
Hydro-Queb	13¾	15	106¾	12.37	12.36
Nova Scot	16¾	11	134	12.89	12.58
CNA	15	06	129¾	12.38	12.18
TransCan	16½	07	132¾	12.94	12.78
Cred Fonc	14¾	07	122¾	12.32	12.15
CONVERTIBLE LOANS					Prem Disc
BOC Group	9	91/06	261	4.375	-4.2
Bell (A)	9½	98/01	164	5.882	-3.1
B.H.S.	9	92	159	5.865	5.9
Habitat M	9½	98/01	183	5.083	2.3
Hanson Tst	9½	01/06	273	3.523	-2.4
Imp Group	8	85/90	104¾	7.579	-4.3
Rio Tinto	8½	95/00	131*	7.080	8.7
Thorn EMI	7	92/99	163	3.992	0.5
Land Secs	10	90/95	260	3.794	-2.6

* Ex Dividend.
Source: Gilbert Eliott & Co

Offshore and International Funds

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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All four tree-toppers waver as England's festival of football attracts 1m of the faithful over two days

Bonnie Prince Charming adds a fairy-tale footnote to the old year

By Peter Ball

Christmas is no bad time for the belief that "everything comes to him who waits" to be proved true and 18 minutes from the end of his penultimate opportunity to do so in 1983 Charlie Nicholas scored the goal the Highbury faithful have been awaiting since August.

That it was a somewhat unsatisfactory affair, coming from the penalty spot after Blake had wrestled down Meade, made no difference to their appreciation of the event. Whether the goal, which earned Arsenal a point against Birmingham, will be equally rewarding for Don Howe, is another matter, for much of the preceding 71 minutes were dire enough to provoke the thought that Boxing Day's result would not be the first time Arsenal had seen a false dawn at Tottenham this season.

The swirling wind forbade severe criticism but it inhibited Birmingham, who had lost their previous six League games, considerably less than Arsenal, and it was only the wastefulness of Harford, who saw the two excellent chances go begging before he laid on Hopkins's goal, which prevented Birmingham bringing Arsenal down to earth with a nasty bump.

If the Highbury crowd were ecstatic at the sight of one goal from their favourite, Wolverhampton's dwindling band also received a seasonal gift, the club notching their first home win since April by beating Everton 3-0 with goals from Crainie, Eves and Clarke. With Stoke idle, the win enabled Wolverhampton to cut the gap between them to five points, and they are now only eight points behind Birmingham in nineteenth position, a small enough deficit in these days of three points for a win to give them something to look forward to in the New Year.

Unfortunately for Wolverhampton, only Watford of the teams above them failed to pick up at least one point, and Notts County and Leicester's interventions in the championship race should give them both considerable heart as they took a point apiece from Old Trafford and Anfield.

Possibly the Old Trafford crowd were kept down to an average 41,544 – still the best by far on the day as gates fell by nearly 100,000 on the Boxing Day total although they comfortably exceeded one million over the two days – by memories of last year's disappointing holiday period.

If so, the fears of the missing thousands were realized as United threw away a 3-1 lead, two goals from Justin Fashanu in the last 10 minutes securing Notts County a share of the points. It would be wrong to make any reference to Christmas gifts, for United's defence have been generous to a fault for much of the season, and their collective failings were again apparent, both Fashanu's goals coming from bad mistakes.

It could have been worse for United, for the Leicester goalkeeper Mark Wallington's penalty save from Souness two minutes from time prevented Liverpool increasing the gap at the top. Had it gone in it would have been a cruel ending for Leicester, who continued their tradition of making life difficult for Liverpool.

The visitors were two goals ahead with 20 minutes remaining, Smith and Banks stilling the Kop, but Lee pulled one back immediately after Bank's effort, and then Rush equalized with his twenty-first goal of the season seven minutes from time.

In the lower divisions the leading teams are also finding the holiday a testing time. Sheffield Wednesday, the second division leaders fell to their second defeat in 24 hours, Middlesbrough inflicting their first home defeat of the season with goals by Sugrue and a penalty by Currie.

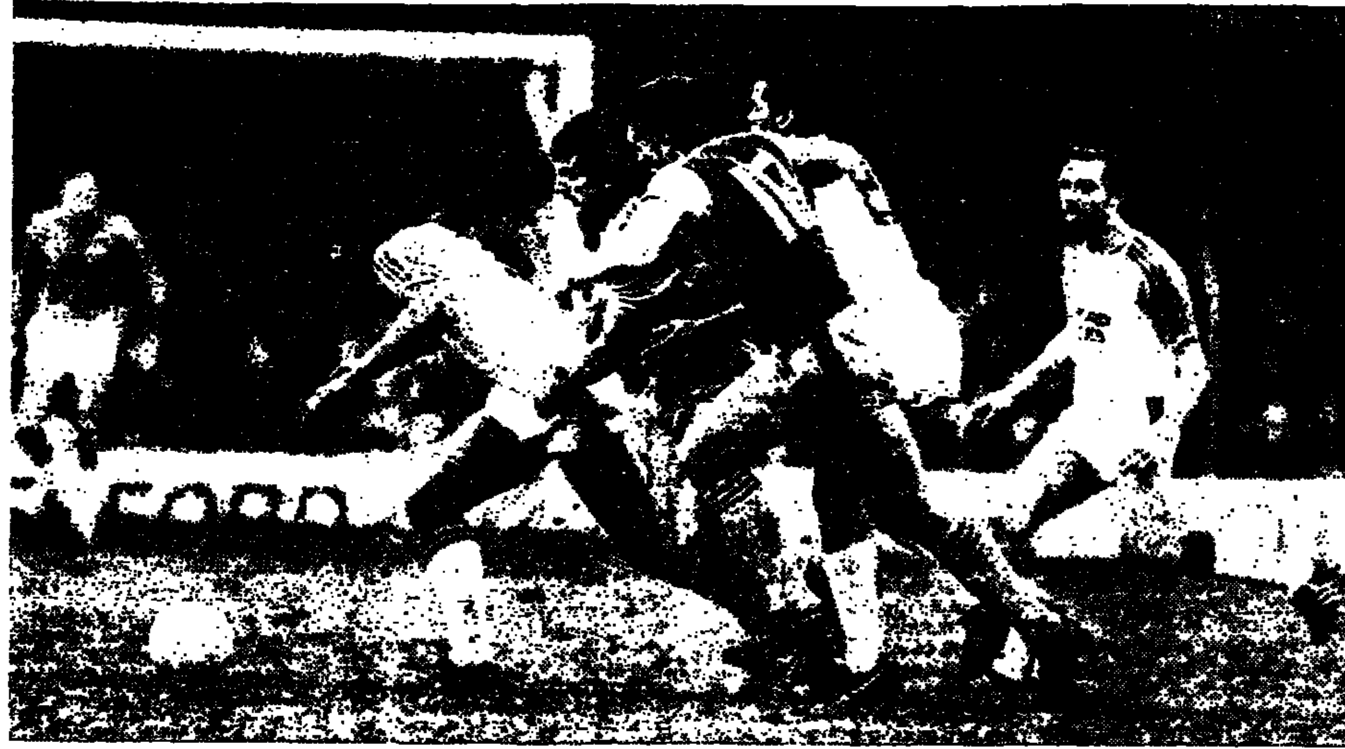
Newcastle fared little better, after their draw with Blackburn on Boxing Day, by falling to rampant Carlisle after leading 1-0. A penalty by Shoulder against his old club proved the turning point and goals by Coughlin and Craig in the last two minutes gave Carlisle a 3-1 victory in a game spoilt by a solitary hooligan attacking the Newcastle goalkeeper, Thomas. It took six policemen to restrain him.

Manchester City are enjoying the week rather more than their neighbours, an impressive performance at Huddersfield bringing them a 3-1 win and maximum points for the two days.

Referee throws book at the wall

Nine Notts County players were booked yesterday by the Wirral referee, Derek Owen, in the 3-3 draw at Manchester United. The only two to escape were Harkouk and Fashanu and the County manager, Jimmy Sirrell, said: "The referee is the sole arbiter and, like it or not, we must abide by his decisions. If we don't we are in trouble and that is exactly what happened."

McDonagh and Kilcline were booked in the first half and when United were awarded a seventieth minute free kick and refused to retreat, Mr Owen booked the entire defensive wall of seven, comprising Goodwin, Worthington, Richards, Hunt, O'Neill, Christie and Chiedozie.



Five minds, one thought: from left, Hill, Devonshire, Brooking, Stein and Horton. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Afternoon of crackle and crunch

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Luton Town 0
West Ham U 1

The music accompanying these two sides, who are accustomed to attacking with a flowing flourish, should be a sweet melody played on violins. But yesterday the tune began with a roll of drums and ended with a clash of cymbals. Strength rather than skill was, disappointingly, the dominant theme.

There was no evidence of a Christmas hangover no shortage of commitment. Tackles crackled and challenges crunched. Aylott, after struggling with an ankle injury for half an hour, was forced eventually to hobble away, and Brush and Stephens received lengthy attention before deciding to limp on.

Although Orr was booked for chasing Thomas for fully 50 yards and felling him, there was no apparent malicious intent. Yet even the ball suffered from the fierce treatment and had to be replaced. It seemed poignant also that the sky, turning a rich black and purple, came out in sympathy during the bruising affair.

West Ham United, under pressure more often than not, won it with a scrambled goal typical of the untidy afternoon a dozen minutes from the end. Cottee, in for the suspended Swindlehurst, led a counter-attack, released Devonshire down the left, and was there some five yards out to volley in Whitton's downward header.

The victory ends West Ham's disappointing recent run and lifts them into fourth place behind Southampton. The defeat continues Luton Town's disappointing recent run at home (they have collected only four points out of a possible 15 at Kenilworth Road since the middle of October) and dropped them down to fifth.

There were occasional flashes of subtlety. Almost all of them were provided by Brooking and Devonshire, at the dusk of their international careers, and by Walsh and Stein, at the dawn of theirs. Elliott, too, was impressive, encouragingly so: he is a combination of the rare characteristics of being young, English and a central defender.

Yet most of the game lay hidden beneath a heavy blanket of competitive determination. As Luton's pitch, a brown and green pocket handkerchief in comparison with most of the other first division arenas, offers little enough play room as it is, the relatively few moments of danger were rendered all the more memorable.

It seemed appropriate that West Ham's opening threat after 25 minutes should be provided by an opponent. After Whitton had threaded his way diagonally through Luton's defence and crossed to the far post, Stephens clipped his own bar with an unintentionally fierce header. Their only other direct attempt came from a deflected Brooking centre.

Luton were let down principally by their own aim. Parkes was genuinely troubled only by a Stein free kick in the first half and a Stephens drive near the end. Perhaps it was as well for West Ham's goalkeeper. Suffering from a stomach complaint, he has been kept in isolation away from his colleagues.

LUTON TOWN: L Sealey; K Stephens, M Thomas, B Horton, P Elliott, M Donaghy, R Hill, B Stein, R Walsh, T Aylott, (sub W Turner), R Daniel.
WEST HAM UNITED: P Parkes; R Stewart, P Brush, S Walford, A Martin, A Devonshire, S Whitton, N Orr, A Cottee, T Brooking, R Barnes.
Referee: K Baker (Rugby).

● Peter Barnes, the England winger, could be leaving Leeds United in May. Eddie Gray, Leeds' player-manager said yesterday that Barnes had told him he would not be signing a new contract with Leeds at the end of the present season.

Bad match for Botham

Botham: booking after tackle

Ian Botham was booked by the referee, Gilbert Napthine, of Loughborough, for a late tackle on Steve Elliott, of Preston North End, when Scunthorpe United lost 5-1 at home yesterday. A minute later Elliott, who scored three times, put Preston ahead.

Preston's second goal, scored by Elliott, was due to a mistake by Botham. He failed to control the ball, allowing Kelly a clear run and the chance to set up the position for Elliott. Houghton and Kelly scored the other Preston goals, and Cammack replied for Scunthorpe late in the game.

Botham was playing in his second League match in successive days. Scunthorpe lost 1-0 at Hull City on Monday. He has ignored the pleas of the Test and County Cricket Board not to risk injury before England's departure for their tour of New Zealand and Pakistan. The Party are due to leave Gatwick tomorrow.

Brazil's samba of angst

By Dennis Shaw

Aston Villa 0
Tottenham Hotspur 0

Twentyfour hours is, indeed, a long time in football, especially when five potential points evaporate. Two clubs with designs on UEFA Cup places found the post-Christmas rush a most unproductive exercise yesterday.

The teams caught each other on the rebound from Boxing Day defeats, and both dug their heels in so doggedly that there were few favours on offer.

But a slow, error-ridden start led to a distinct acceleration of tempo, and a tinge of desperation. Ultimately, the outcome was a spectable more entertaining than the absence of goals suggests.

Both managers could claim that they should have won, since scoring attempts at each end littered a frenetic second half. The reason neither side achieved the breakthrough they sought with ever-increasing frenzy was double-edged.

Goalkeeping par excellence was the major factor in depriving the game of the goal or three it deserved, but finishing of the "Oh! dear" variety could be blamed almost equally.

Clemence and Spink shared the plaudits for saves that brought credit to their craft. In contrast, the troubled Brazil was left clutching the booby prize for twice pausing too long after completing the difficult part.

Brazil's anguish was at its height in a barren first half-hour when a mistake by Ormsby and a slick Spurs response left him isolated five yards out. He had the ball at his feet and the bulk of Spink his only obstacle. "When a striker is having a disastrous time, he can try too hard, the Villa manager, Tony Barton, said.

"Brazil let us off twice, missing the best chances of the game. Had Archibald or Falco had his second half opening they would have put it away. It was lucky for us," he added.

Clemence then clawed away superbly chipped shots by Withe and Walters, while Spink levelled the account by saving from Roberts and Stevens.

Vills's most frustrating moment came when Withe whacked an obliquely-angled shot into the net and celebrated prematurely, unaware of the linesman's flag raised 15 yards back. He was in good company – the referee missed it too, but changed his decision from a goal to a free kick when the linesman stuck to his guns.

Brazil was excused his dual failure by his manager Keith Burkinshaw. "He would normally have blown the first one in but he had the courage to try again. The second time he did everything right and I give all credit to Ormsby for clearing his shot off the line."

Aston Villa: N Spink; G Williams (sub R Walker), E Deacy, A Evans, B Ormsby, D Mortimer, A Curbishley, P Rideout, P Withe, S McMahon, M Walters.
Tottenham Hotspur: R Clemence, G O'Reilly, D Thomas, G Roberts, G Stevens, S Perryman, T Galvin, (sub M Falco), S Archibald, A Brazil, G Hoddle, C Hughton
Referee: R Milford (Bristol).

● A two-match suspension for the Aston Villa centre half, Brendan Ormsby, who has topped 21 disciplinary points, could upset Villa's progress in two cup competitions, Press Association reports. He misses a league game at West Bromwich on January 14, and will be banned from either a possible FA Cup replay with Norwich or the Milk Cup quarter-final at Norwich on January 17.

Gary Williams, the Aston Villa full-back, had eight stitches in a gashed ankle after a tackle by the Tottenham defender, Graham Roberts. He is rated "very doubtful" for the matches at home to Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday and at Southampton in Monday.

● GRIMSBY TOWN were accused yesterday of making inadequate arrangements to cope with a large holiday crowd. Police say that only restrained behaviour by the 16,000 supporters who went to Blundell Park for the Boxing Day game with the Second Division leaders Sheffield Wednesday prevented serious trouble.

A Sheffield councillor, Clive Betts, who was among the crowd is to complain to the FA, the police and the club over what he described as "appalling arrangements" for the 7,000 plus Wednesday supporters.

They were forced to squeeze through two turnstiles – later increased to four after police pressure. Those with tickets were made to queue with those paying at the gate.

● Lee Chapman, the Arsenal forward, will sign for Sunderland in a £100,000 deal today, subject to a medical. The former Stoke player travelled to Roker Park and watched Sunderland beat West Bromwich Albion 3-0.

"I don't envisage any problems," said Alan Durban, the Sunderland manager. "Chapman telephoned me and he wants to come."

Dixon fails to copy the old master

By Nicholas Harling

Chelsea 2
Portsmouth 2

The most remarkable aspect of yesterday morning's game at Stamford Bridge was that only four goals were scored. Three of them came in the opening 11 minutes after which Dixon missed two penalties for Chelsea and both sides struck the woodwork twice.

There were also countless near misses in a match of such frenetic excitement that it would not have disgraced a cup tie. But a Canon League match it was and Chelsea wasted their chance to go top of the second division. They have now dropped 10 points in their last five games at home.

The goals came so quickly at first that those with long memories were recalling the Christmas Day 26 years ago when Chelsea beat Portsmouth 7-4, Greaves getting four of them. A repeat scoreline looked a distinct possibility, in spite of a capricious wind and a morass of a pitch, liberally sprinkled with sand, that did nothing to deter either set of forwards. Clearly neither side's appetite was sated by the four goals each had managed the previous day.

It took Hateley only four minutes to recapture the mood, against one of the clubs that his famous father played for, getting the merest touch with his head to John McLaughlin's free kick but it was enough to beat Niedzwicki's straining fingers. McLaughlin was soon to depart and it was as the full back was being escorted from the pitch with a dislocated shoulder that Chelsea equalized in the seventh minute. Canoville, however, seemed to control Dixon's pass with his hands before shaking off Webb's challenge to score.

Dixon: bending over backwards for Chelsea

Four more minutes and Portsmouth were ahead again as Dixon handled a fierce cross from Morgan, who had come on as substitute. Dillon slotted home the penalty with the kind of accuracy that Dixon was soon to find beyond him, though he had succeeded from the 12-yard mark the day before.

Dixon's first chance from the spot came on the half hour when Dillon brought down Speedie on the edge of the area. Knight flung himself high to his right to keep out the penalty and Dillon completed the save by turning aside Canoville's cross from the rebound.

Portsmouth succumbed again when McLaughlin put Dixon through to resist Tait's attention and beat Knight at the second attempt.

The tempo only slowed marginally in the second half as Portsmouth sought to regain their lead. Hateley cut in from the left wing to strike an upright with a stupendous shot.

Chelsea's second penalty came in the 63rd minute, Speedie being felled again, this time by Ellis. Dixon hit the angle of post and bar and the woodwork again saved Portsmouth when Speedie headed against the bar.

Webb did likewise at the other end after one of several lapses by McLaughlin. A draw was the only just result and Morgan kept it that way when he raced back to volley Speedie's drive off the line.

Woods keeps Norwich record intact

By Gerry Harrison

Norwich City 0
Ipswich Town 0

Norwich City have not been beaten by Ipswich Town in six meetings and their present record of two defeats in 18 games is infinitely superior to that of Ipswich who have two wins in 10 league matches. Yet only the quality of the Norwich goalkeeper, Chris Woods, saved them from a sound beating yesterday and local humiliation in front of Carrow Road's biggest attendance of the season.

Strange that recent form and fortune should mean so little. Norwich were keen without sharpness and Ipswich, missing Burley, Putney and Cooper, looked tough and competent. They should not have allowed Woods to emerge as the hero of the afternoon.

In the last 15 minutes of the half Woods saved well from Wark, Gates and O'Callaghan in breakaway moves. What little seasonal spirit there was evaporated when Mariner rashly challenged Woods after his save from Gates, not his first doubtfully timed act of 1983

City's plan to substitute Hareide for Donowa and move Deehan forward had to be reshaped when Mendham was carried off after a tackle by O'Callaghan. At least it produced a spark or two from Donowa in a tense finish in which Woods once again took the honours with two saves in injury time, clawing Mariner's header from the top corner and stooping to thwart a point blank shot from Gates.

NORWICH CITY: C Woods, P Haylock, G Downs, P Mendham (sub, A Hareide), J Deehan, D Watson, L Donowa, M Channon, J Devine, K Bertschin, D Van Wyck.
IPSWICH TOWN: L Sivell; T Parkin, I Gernon, A Kinsella, R Osman, T Butcher, J Wark, S McCall, P Mariner, E Gates, K O'Callaghan.
Referee: J Hunting (Leicester).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leuluai lays a boulevard ghost

By Keith Macklin

The ghosts of Featherstone past were thoroughly exorcized from the Boulevard before a crowd of 11,000 at Hull yesterday. Inspired by a brilliant display of running by their New Zealand centre, Leuluai, and by the promptings of the Australian scrum half, Sterling, Hull ran in seven tries in a 37-4 win.

It was a performance that did much to erase the still-bitter memories of defeat at Wembley and in the John Player Trophy, and Leuluai showed scorching pace and his backing-up skills to score four tries and take the man of the match just ahead of the industrious Sterling.

Rovers rarely competed with the fire and spirit that brought them their unexpected Challenge Cup win over Hull, and when Evans trotted over the line for the last Hull try without a defender near him, the Boulevard crowd seized the opportunity to chant "easy, easy". Hudson, the Featherstone mastermind at Wembley, was tackled out of the game and eventually substituted while Hobbs, the match-winning second row forward, was unfit and only came on as subsitute late in the game.

Two of the Leuluai tries were great individual efforts, the last one coming from a kick-through and a sprint which completely outpaced the Reatherstone defenders. The other Hull tries came from Sterling, who charged down a kick by his fellow Australian, McMahon, and Schofield. Crooks kicked four goals and Divorty dropped a goal. The teams meet again in the return league game next Monday, and Rovers followers will look for a much more competitive performance from their team.

Warrington remain handily tucked in just below the top four after their 34-18 win over Leigh in an exciting and eventful derby game at Wilderspool; Leigh's defeat pushed them blow the reviving Leeds in the middle of the table.

FIRST DIVISION: Hull 37, Featherstone Rovers 4; Warrington 34, Leigh 18.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford N	15	12	0	3	315	177	24
Castleford	16	11	1	4	440	214	23
Widnes	14	11	0	3	323	165	22
Hull KR	14	10	1	3	340	168	21
Warrington	15	8	2	5	300	243	18
Oldham	15	8	2	5	267	229	18

Bottom positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wakefield	17	5	0	12	271	373	10
F'thrstne R	13	4	1	8	223	287	9
Salford	16	3	0	13	188	419	6
Whitehaven	16	0	0	16	139	627	0

HOCKEY

Yorkshire tumble

By Joyce Whitehead

Yorkshire, the leaders, suffered a setback, losing 1–0 yesterday to Cheshire when the woman's northern territorial matches started on Queen Mary's School ground, Lytham St Annes.

Cheshire built up pressure with good teamwork and Carol Dudley scored the only goal to give Cheshire top place in the table with nine points. Lancashire's goalless draw with Sheffield League left them equal second with Yorkshire on eight points.

Lancashire Central League, the holders, whow had only five points at the start of the tournament, came back strongly with a 2–0 win over Northumberland to take fourth place.

Three more territorial tournaments begin today. The West start their series at 10.30 am at Cheltenham on the Ladies College ground; Midlands at noon on Pohill College ground, Bedford, and the East at 1.30 in the Eurosports Village at Shotley, near Ipswich.

Results: North Lancashire 0, Sheffield League 0; Manchester League 2, Cumberland 0; Cheshire 1, Yorkshire 0; Durham 3, Westmoreland 0; Lancashire Central League 2, Northumberland 0.

Challengers lose out on points

By Hugh Taylor

Celtic 1
Dundee United 1

It was a frustating afternoon for Celtic and Dundee United, perhaps now the only challengers to Aberdeen for the premier division titles. Both were desperate at Parkhead yesterday for full points to keep them in touch at the top with the leaders, who are sailing so briskly ahead.

Both had periods in which they looked as though victory would be theirs. In the end they had to be satisfied with a draw, a disappointing result for each and the best pleased, therefore, are Aberdeen, who are four points ahead of Celtic and eight of United.

The home supporters, too, were unhappy, believing a penalty award to United which brought the equalizer was dubious, to say the least. But for the neutral it was an exciting afternoon, a fiercely contested match which never flagged and although four players were booked - three for Celtic and one for United - it was always more exhilatrating than unsporting.

Indeed, as soon as the referee signalled the start the game turned into an old-fashioned cup-tie, a trial of strength in an incessant downpour. If there were few glimpses of the splendidly-constructed football for which the rivals, second and third respectively in the league placings, are noted, the crowd of 25,987 could not complain about lack of entertainment.

The first half in particular was a swinging joust, with fiery tackles and tempers at flashpoint. Attacks mounted with the fervour of clan raids. If United had slipped recently from that height of form which earned them a championship last season, ti was obvious that their slump had not been caused by lack of resolution because they matched Celtic in will power, edeavour and stamina.

It was to United that the best chance fell, a cute slip from Milne to Sturrock presenting the international attacker an opportunity of which modern forwards dream. But Sturrock, who was playing his first full league game of the season following injury, lacked his usual dash and the opportunity vanished.

Celtic, even if they were without almost a platoon of regulars who were missing because of injury and suspension, took the initiative. With McStay masterminding moves which, if lacking traditional Celtic subtlety, were much more rhythmical than that of United, the home team should have gone ahead long before they took the lead just on the halftime whistle.

All scorned chances were forgiven when McClair tapped the ball over the line after Colquhoun had baffled the United defence and crossed neatly. There was, however, little joy for Celtic in the second half

While a penalty may have been a harsh decision when Coyne apeared more to stumble than be pushed in the area, the referee had no hesitation in giving the award and Bannon took advantage to level the scores from the spot. Celtic of course hit back; they always do. But this time it was too late, the United defence in no mood to give anything away and so the game ended with the right result, but not the result to please the respective managers.

CELTIC: P Bonner, D McGrain, M Reid, R Aitken, T McAdam, (Dobbin) G Sinclair, J Colquhoun, (sub W McStay) P McStay, F McGarvey, M McLeod, B McClair.
DUNDEE: H McAlpine, M Malpas, D Stark, R Gough, P Hegarty, J Holt, E Bannon, R Milne, (sub T Coyne), P Sturrock, W Kirkwood, D Dodds.
Referee: D F T Sime (Rutherglen).

TENNIS

Dubious gift for Miss Went

Kate Brasher, the No 1 seed, won 6-0, 6-0 against Julie Went, of Avon, on the first day of the Sunsilk Christmas tournament at Queen's Club. There was little Miss Went could do on this occasion, but the experience she gathered from a match against the British No 7 is in itself no bad gift.

Sadly, Linda Geeves, the player seeded to meet Miss Brasher in the final, withdrew yesterday morning, weakened after a virus infection.

RESULTS: K Brasher bt J Went 6-0, 6-0; J Davies bt C Bhaguandas 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; P Yates bt T Sawyer 6-0, 6-2; D Walker bt F Couldridge 6-3, 6-3; S Imhof bt A Brasher, 6-2, 7-5.

FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Flyers 5, Washington Capitals 4; Montreal Canadiens 2, Hartford Whalers 1; Boston Bruins 2, Buffalo Sabres 1; Pittsburgh Penguins 7, New York Rangers 4; Toronto Maple Leafs 6, Detroit Red Wings 2; Chicago Black Hawks 3, St Louis Blues 1; Winnipeg Jets 5, Minnesota North Stars 1; Edmonton Oilers 6, Calgary Flames 3; Los Angeles Kings 5, Vancouver Canucks 4.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Phoenix Suns 140, Denver Nuggets 133.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Play-off: Los Angeles Rams 24, Dallas Cowboys 17.

TENNIS

MIAMI: Orange Bowl junior championships: Under-18 singles finals: Men: K Carlsson (Swe) bt E Sanchez (Sp), 6-2, 6-4. Women: D Spence (US) bt A Cecchini (It), 2-6, 7-5, 6-4.

CYCLO–CROSS

RENHAMS CHAMPIONSHIP: Event two: 1, Springer (Crabwood CC) 1hr 0min 20sec; 2, P Bennett (Ross Wheelers) 4:0-59; 3, I MacDonald (GS Europe); 4, P Hargroves (Crabwood CC); 5, N Shawyer (Bournemouth Arrow); 6, P Shawyer (Bournemouth Arrow), all 1 lap behind.

SPEED SKATING

ALMA ATA: 1,500m: 1, A Bobrov (USSR) 1min 53.22sec (world record); 2, V Chacherin (USSR) 1:53.70; 3, I Zhelezovsky (USSR) 1:53.99. 5,000m: 1, C Korotkov (USSR) 6:52.57

RUGBY UNION

Eastern Counties 10, Surrey 6; Middlesex 12, Kent 13.

Snow reports

GERMANY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Garmisch	–	19	Sikyan	–	0
Mittenwald	–	20	Siky an	–	0
Aberjoch	–	45	Siky an	–	0
Aberstaufen	–	10	Wet	–	1
Oberstdorf	–	5	Siky an	–	1

SCOTLAND
Cairngorm: Upper runs: two complete runs. Wet snow. Middle runs: runs almost complete. Lower slopes: no snow. Glenshee, Glencoe and Lecht: insufficient snow.

Head of the River?

Buenos Aires, (AFP) – The historic Argentine club, River Plate, have intensified their search for a new manager after their worst season in the first division. They finished last but one but avoided relegation because this is decided over two seasons. Luis Cubilla, of Uruguay, and an Argentine, Hugo Santilli, are the leading aspriants for the post from which Jorge Dominichi was dismissed.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS, SCORERS AND TABLES

First division

Home	Away
ARSENAL (0) 1 Nicholas (pen) 25,642	BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 Hopkins
ASTON VILLA (0) 0 30,125	TOTTENHAM (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (0) 2 Lee, Rush 33,664	LEICESTER (1) 2 A Smith, Banks
LUTON (0) 0 16,343	WEST HAM (0) 1 Cottee
MAN UTD (0) 3 Crooks, McQueen, Moran 41,544	NOTTS COUNTY (0) 3 Christie (pen), Fashanu 2
NORWICH (0) 0	IPSWICH (0) 0 25,679
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 D Armstrong	WATFORD (0) 0 20,859
SUNDERLAND (2) 3 Robson, Bracewell	WEST BROM (0) 0 17,968
WOLVES (1) 3 Eves, Crainie, Clarke	EVERTON (0) 0 12,761

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	20	12	5	3	35	16	41
Manchester U	20	11	5	4	38	23	38
Southampton	20	11	4	5	22	14	37
West Ham Utd	20	11	3	6	31	18	36
Luton Town	20	11	2	7	38	28	35
Nottingham F	19	10	3	6	35	26	33
Coventry City	19	9	6	4	29	21	33
QP Rangers	19	10	2	7	30	18	32
Aston Villa	20	9	5	6	31	29	32
Norwich City	21	8	7	6	25	23	31
Tottenham H	20	8	6	6	32	31	30
Arsenal	20	9	1	10	35	29	28
Sunderland	20	7	6	7	22	27	27
Ipswich Town	20	7	5	8	30	27	26
West Bromwich	20	7	2	11	22	32	23
Everton	20	6	5	9	11	23	23
Leicester City	21	5	6	10	30	39	21
Watford	20	5	4	11	32	38	19
Birmingham C	20	5	4	11	17	25	19
Notts County	20	5	3	12	27	39	18
Stoke City	19	3	7	9	20	33	16
Wolves	20	2	5	13	16	45	11

Second division

Home	Away
BRIGHTON (0) 1 Ryan 15,076	FULHAM (0) 1 Sealey
CARLISLE (1) 3 Shoulder (pen) Coughlin, Craig	NEWCASTLE (1) 1 Waddle 14,756
CHARLTON (0) 1 Hales	C PALACE (0) 0 10,224
CHELSEA (2) 2 Canoville, Dixon 25,440	PORTSMOUTH (2) 2 Hateley, Dillon (pen)
DERBY (2) 2 McAlle, Hooks 16,054	CARDIFF (1) 3 Baird 2, Dwyer
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 Stonehouse 23,497	MAN CITY (2) 3 Kinsey, Baker, Lomax
OLDHAM (0) 3 Bowden, McBride, Cross	LEEDS (1) 2 Wright, Gray 8,393
SHEFF WED (0) 0 24,818	MIDDLESBORO (2) 2 Sugrue, Currie (pen)
SWANSEA (0) 0 7,706	SHREWSBURY (0) 2 Hackett, Stevens

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheffield Wed	21	13	5	3	37	19	44
Chelsea	23	11	9	3	49	28	42
Manchester C	21	13	3	5	37	22	42
Newcastle Utd	21	12	3	6	43	31	39
Carlisle Utd	21	10	7	4	25	15	37
Charlton Ath	22	10	7	5	27	27	37
Grimsby Town	20	10	6	4	31	22	36
Huddersfield T	21	9	7	5	32	26	34
Blackburn R	20	9	7	4	26	27	34
Portsmouth	21	9	3	9	39	25	30
Shrewsbury T	21	7	7	7	26	28	28
Barnsley	20	8	3	9	32	29	27
Middlesborough	21	7	6	8	25	22	27
Brighton	21	7	5	9	34	35	26
Cardiff City	21	8	1	12	27	32	25
Oldham Ath	21	7	4	10	25	35	25
Derby Co	21	6	5	10	21	39	23
Crystal Palace	21	6	4	11	21	28	22
Leeds Utd	20	5	5	10	24	33	20
Fulham	21	3	7	11	21	34	16
Cambridge Utd	20	2	5	13	15	38	11
Swansea City	21	2	3	16	16	41	9

Third division

Home	Away
BOLTON (0) 1 Chandler	OXFORD (0) 0 11,058
BRADFORD C (3) 6 Ellis, Hawley 3 (1 pen), Gray 2	WIGAN (0) 2 Butler, Lowe 5,178
EXETER (0) 1 Pratt 4,252	BRENTFORD (0) 2 Cassells, G Roberts
NEWPORT (1) 2 Aldridge 2	PLYMOUTH (0) 0 5,154
ORIENT (1) 2 Cornwall, Sussex	BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 4,077
PORT VALE (1) 2 O'Keefe, Young	SHEFF UTD (0) 0 7,034
ROTHERHAM (0) 0 6,298	HULL (1) 1 Skipper
SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 Cammack 3,986	PRESTON (1) 5 Elliott 3, Houghton, Kelly
SOUTHEND (0) 2 McDonough, Phillips	LINCOLN (0) 0 2,824
WALSALL (0) 1 Rees	BURNLEY (0) 1 Hamilton 8,131
WIMBLEDON (2) 4 Cork 2, Smith, Evans	MILLWALL (1) 3 Otulakowski, Bremner, Downes (og)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford Utd	21	13	4	4	43	26	43
Hull City	21	11	8	2	35	16	41
Sheffield Utd	21	11	6	4	40	23	39
Orient	21	11	4	6	31	23	37
Bolton W	21	10	6	5	33	20	36
Wimbledon	20	11	3	6	48	39	36
Walsall	21	10	6	5	31	28	36
*Bristol R	20	10	4	6	31	27	34
Newport Co	21	9	7	5	29	31	34
Burnley	21	9	6	6	41	28	33
*Gillingham	19	10	3	6	37	30	33
Lincoln City	21	10	2	9	28	27	32
Millwall	21	8	6	7	40	41	30
Southend Utd	20	6	6	8	29	33	24
Preston NE	21	6	5	10	33	31	23
Bradford City	20	6	5	9	32	34	23
Plymouth A	20	6	5	9	23	26	23
Rotherham	20	6	3	11	20	30	21
Wigan Ath	21	5	6	10	22	34	21
Exeter City	21	4	7	10	27	37	19
Bournemouth	21	5	4	12	25	41	19
Scunthorpe Utd	21	4	6	11	24	38	18
Brentford	20	3	7	10	26	40	16
Port Vale	20	2	3	15	16	42	9

*Excluding last night's result.

Fourth division

Home	Away
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 Hetzke (pen)	HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 4,562
CHESTER (0) 0 1,431	MANSFIELD (3) 4 Barrowclough, Lowery, Caldwell, Nicholson
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 Newton	BURY (3) 5 Entwistle 2, Jakub 2, Madden
COLCHESTER (3) 4 Adcock 2, (1 pen), Wignall, Bowen	ALDERSHOT (1) 1 McDonald 3,123
DARLINGTON (1) 1 Todd 2,457	DONCASTER (0) 2 Mutrie, Moss
NORTHAMPTON (2) 2 Jeffrey, Hayes	PETERBORO (0) 1 Waddle
READING (2) 2 Senior, Horrix 4,910	TORQUAY (1) 2 Judge (og), Anderson
ROCHDALE (1) 1 Higgins	HALIFAX (0) 1 Cook 1,895
SWINDON (0) 0 4,298	WREXHAM (1) 1 Edwards
YORK (1) 1 Senior	TRANMERE (0) 1 Philpotts 6,357

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
York City	21	13	4	4	45	21	43
Blackpool	21	12	2	7	27	21	38
Doncaster R	21	10	7	4	36	26	37
Colchester Utd	21	10	6	5	38	20	36
*Peterborough U	21	10	5	6	38	24	35
Bristol C	20	11	1	8	30	15	34
Reading	21	9	7	5	47	33	34
Bury	20	9	6	5	34	24	33
Northampton T	21	8	9	4	27	21	33
Aldershot	22	9	6	7	25	31	33
Tranmere R	21	7	8	6	27	26	29
Swindon T	21	8	4	9	30	27	28
Torquay Utd	21	7	7	7	28	32	28
*Stockport Co	21	7	6	8	31	33	27
Crewe Alex	19	8	3	8	18	27	27
Chesterfield	21	5	11	5	24	27	26
Mansfield T	21	6	5	10	29	34	23
Darlington	21	7	2	12	17	22	23
*Hereford Utd	19	5	8	6	15	22	23
Wrexham	20	5	7	8	28	29	22
Rochdale	21	5	6	10	27	38	21
Halifax T	21	5	6	10	21	38	21
Chester	21	2	7	12	17	38	13
Hartlepool Utd	21	2	5	14	16	45	11

*Excluding last night's results.

Scottish premier division

Home	Away
CELTIC (1) 1 McClair	DUNDEE UTD (0) 1 Bannon (pen)
DUNDEE (0) 0	ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 Gibson
HIBERNIAN (0) 0	RANGERS (1) 2 Williamson, Cooper

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	18	14	2	2	46	9	30
Celtic	18	11	4	3	43	20	26
Dundee Utd	17	9	4	4	32	18	22
Rangers	18	8	2	8	27	25	18
Hearts	18	6	6	6	19	22	18
Hibernian	18	8	1	9	27	31	17
St Mirren	17	4	7	6	24	27	15
Dundee	18	6	2	10	23	33	14
St Johnstone	18	5	0	13	17	50	10
Motherwell	18	1	6	11	12	36	8

Scottish first division

AIRDRIE (0) 1 McGuire — MEADOWBANK (0) 2 Sprott, Armstong

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partick Th	20	13	3	4	37	23	29
Morton	20	8	8	4	38	29	24
Kilmarnock	20	11	2	7	33	24	24
Dumbarton	20	9	6	5	30	24	24
Falkirk	20	11	2	7	28	25	24
Clydebank	20	9	5	6	31	25	23
Brechin City	20	8	7	5	30	27	23
Ayr Utd	20	5	8	7	33	34	18
Clyde	20	6	5	9	26	23	17
Hamilton Acad	20	5	7	8	22	26	17
Airdrieonians	20	6	5	9	19	26	17
Meadowbank	20	6	4	10	19	33	16
Raith R	20	3	7	10	19	33	13
Alloa Ath	20	4	3	13	22	35	11

IRISH LEAGUE: Coleraine 0, Ballymena 0; Crusaders 3, Linfield 1; Glentoran 1, Distillery 1; Larne 1, Ards 1.

WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 3, Minehead 1; Bristol Manor Farm 4, Mangotsfield 1; Devizes 2, Chippenham 2; Liskeard 4, Barnstaple 0; Saltash 4, Exmouth 0; Shepton Mallet 0, Frome 2; Taunton 0, Dawlish 1; Weston 1, Clevedon 0.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Monday: Congleton 4, Leek 1; Curzon Ashton 5, Ashton 2; Formby 1, Netherfield 4; Radcliffe 4, Bootle 0; St Helens 2, Darwen 0; Stalybridge Celtic 4, Caernarfon 2, Winsford 6, Glossop 1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

First division
Nottingham Forest v Coventry (7.30)

Second division
Blackburn v Barnsley (7.30)
Cambridge United v Grimsby (7.30)

Fourth division
Crewe v Bristol City (7.30)

RUGBY UNION: Leicester v Barbarians (2.45); Newport v Maesteg (7.0).

CRICKET: ONE CAPTAIN MARCHES ON WHILE ANOTHER COMES TO AN UNCEREMONIOUS HALT

Imran dour as a Boycott and fierce as a Richards

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, at long last given doctor's permission to take part in the series, wasted no time in putting his stamp on proceedings on the second day of the fourth Test match against Australia here yesterday.

Imran, who had manfully endured the agony of sitting on the sidelines while his colleagues struggled through the first two games before acquitting themselves better in the third, played one of the innings of his life in steering his team to a strong position.

His preparation for this had been a few knocks in the nets and a couple of short stays at the crease in his only game of the tour, against Tasmania at Hobart a week ago. But in the face of all these problems he produced a true captain's innings. He was at the crease for a few minutes short of four hours for his 83, but never once did his concentration waver.

He sat out the tough periods with the application of a Boycott, then pounced on scoring opportunities with the ferocity of a Richards. Thanks to his dedication, Pakistan scored 470, a formidable first innings on a wicket reputedly bad for batting late in a Test.

Much to the joy of Imran's camp, Azeem, the young fast bowler, grabbed two Australian wickets before stumps. Azeem had Wessels smartly caught at the wicket by Wasum Bari when the score was 21; then, recalled to the attack late in the day, he snapped up the wicket of the menacing Phillips.

At that stage Australia were a little unsteady on their feet at 70 for two. Hughes had a shaky time with Yallop before seeing his team through to stumps at 88 for two. With Qadir extracting considerable amounts of spin at one end, and with Azeem skidding a few along the ground at the other, it looked as if Australia would not survive, let alone win.

Pakistan resumed yesterday at 308 for five, and, judging by their bottom-half perfomances in the earlier Tests, could not have hoped for what was to follow. What ensued was the sort of responsibility and self-discipline one would expect from a dedicated team, but which was sadly missing from the side under the leadership of Zaheer.


Imran did not once waver at the crease

Three partnerships involving Imran set the standard. With the dashing Salim (they put on 27) and an equally enterprising Sarfraz (with whom he added 28), Imran was prepared to take a supportive role. But when the chunky, bouncy Qadir came out to join him, Imran took charge to guide his partner through an early storm when the Australians threw everything at him and into calmer waters later in their long stand.

Qadir dug deep to find extra reserves of conviction while displaying fine defensive mechanisms and occasional strokes of genius in crashing the ball away through the off side. His innings of 45 was a career-best performance in Tests and perhaps will give him the confidence to produce some of his best with the ball and at last make a real mark on this series.

The Australian bowlers found there was nothing to their liking in this pitch on the second day.

The slow bounce that had been evident in the opening phase of the game was gone. The little amount of spin that Matthews had found on Monday was no longer there and it was just a matter of chiselling away

Lillee, as usual, gave freely of his body and soul and was perhaps the best of the Australian bowlers. He produced a ball good enough to dislodge Imran. Lillee's immense skills were on display when he landed a leg-cutter outside off stump. Imran edged and, for the ninety-third time in Tests, the scorer wrote "caught Marsh, Bowled Lillee".

Maguire, in his first Test appearance, impressed as a likely workhorse, plugging away at fast-medium on or outside of stump for his three wickets. He caught the eye with two fine outfield catches, excellent ground fielding and throwing in to the wickets.

The other newcomers, the off spinner, Matthews, picked up the last two wickets to fall: but there was not a lot to be said in his favour.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Mohsin Khan l-b-w b Lillee	152
Mudassar Nazar c Marsh b Lawson	7
Qasim Omar b Maguire	23
Javed Miandad c Marsh b Maguire	27
Zaheer Abbas run out	44
Salim Malik c Maguire b Lawson	35
*Imran Khan c Marsh b Lillee	83
Sarfraz Narwaz c Hughes b Maguire	22
Abdul Qadir c Lawson b Matthews	45
†Wasim Bari not out	6
Azeem Hafeez c Maguire b Matthews	7
Extras (l-b 11, n-b 8)	19
Total	470

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–13, 2–64, 3–112, 4–244, 5–284, 6–321, 7–348, 8–457, 9–459, 10–470.

BOWLING: Lawson 38-8-125-2; Lillee 38-11-113-2; Maguire 29.4-7-65-3; Chappell 7-3-15-0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

K C Wessels, c Wasim Bari b Azeem	11
W B Phillips, lbw b Azeem	35
G N Yallop, not out	24
*K J Hughes, not out	14
Extras (b1, w1, n-b 2)	4
Total (2 wickets)	88

A R Border, G S Chappell, G R J Matthews, †R W Marsh, G F Lawson, J N Maguire and D K Lillee to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–21, 2–70.

BOWLING (to date): Sarfraz 12-1-37-0; Azeem 10-4-37-2; Qadir 9-4-13-0.

Umpires: A R Crafter and P McConnell.

Sri Lankan rebels appeal

Colombo (Reuter) – The Sri Lankan team which defied a government ban by touring South Africa last year has appealed to the government to lift a 25-year ban on the players. They are barred from participating in national cricket and recognized domestic tournaments.

The Daily Mirror reported yesterday that the team's player-manager, Tony Opatha, had, on behalf of the 14-member team, appealed to the Sports Minister, Vincent Perera, for a complete reprieve, permission to participate in domestic competitions and eligibility to play for the national side.

The rebel team, which was led by the former Sri Lankan captain, Bandula Warnapura, visited South Africa for seven weeks in October last year in a tour that was described by South African authorities as a financial flop.

Last week Mr Perera said in Parliament that the would consider any appeal made by the rebels for a reprieve. He was replying to Sarath Mutteтuwegama, sole member the Communist Party, who said the punishment was too harsh.

Sri Lanka is a signatory to the Gleneagles agreement which discourages sporting contacts with South Africa.

W Indies walk off in bottle protest

Madras (Agencies) – The West Indies captain, Clive Lloyd, ordered his team off the field after a spectator threw a bottle which hit the fast bowler, Winston Davis, during the sixth and final test match here yesterday.

Lloyd was persuaded by Indian officials to resume play 27 minutes later, and India ended the third day struggling at 69 for four in reply to West Indies' first innings total of 313.

The incident occurred in the last period of play when India were 54 for two. Gavaskar hit the spin bowler Harper, for four. Davis went to pick up the ball and the bottle, thrown by a spectator who has not been identified, hit him high on the chest, officials said. Davis was seen writhing in pain and Lloyd ordered his team to leave the field in protest. The Indian batsmen stayed at the crease.

India, having taken the last three West Indies wickets for 11 after lunch, made a bad start to their innings. Marshall sent back Gaekwad and Vengsarkar, both caught by Harper in the slips, without a run on the board.

However, Gavaskar and Siddgu, who was preferred to Amarnath for this match, steadied the innings, until Siddhu was caught by Richards off Roberts off as soon as play resumed after the West Indians protest.

Malhotra, who has been playing well in the series, came and went cheaply, the fourth batsman to be caught. Gavaskar, who came in at No 4, is still there on 36. Marshall has so far taken two wickets for three runs off six overs.

West Indies resumed their first innings at 207 for five. Dujon became the highest scorer with a well-made 62, his fourth half-century of the tour, but he and his overnight partner, Davis, were back in the pavilion by the time the score reached 232.

However, an eighth-wicket partnership of 71 between Marshall and Holding, who hit four sixes in his 34, gave the innings new life.

While Maninder Singh, having conceded only 26 runs in 21 overs on Monday, carried on where he had left off by bowling three successive maidens, another spinner, Yadav, was brought on from the other end. Holding greeted him with successive sixes over long-on and midwicket and hit a four in the same over.


Lloyd: order to team

Holding then turned his attention to Maninder and hoisted him over the midwicket boundry for another six. West Indies looked well placed, with the Marshall-Holding partnership going well, but they added just one run after lunch before Kapil Dev stepped in to dismiss them both, and Maninder got rid of Harper.

Kapil Dev finished the innings with three wickets, making him the highest Indian wicket-taker in a series against West Indies.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

C G Greenidge, c Gavaskar b Shastri	34
D L Haynes, b Maninder	23
I V A Richards, c Kirmani b Maninder	32
H A Gomes, b Yadav	28
†P J Dujon, c Kapil Dev b Binny	62
*C H Lloyd, lbw b Kapil Dev	32
W W Davis, c Navjot Singh b Binny	12
M D Marshall, b Kapil Dev	38
M A Holding, lbw b Kapil Dev	34
A M E Roberts, not out	0
R A Harper, c and b Maninder	0
Extras (lb 12, nb 6)	18
Total	313

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–47, 2–91, 3–100, 4–136, 5–200, 6–226, 7–232, 8–303, 9–312, 10–313.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev 15-3-44-3; Binny 12-1-48-2; Shastri 28-6-72-1; Yadav 28-4-86-1; Maninder 29.3-8-41-3.

INDIA: First Innings

A D Gaekwad, c Harper b Marshall	0
N S Siddhu, c Richards b Roberts	20
D B Vengsarkar, c Harper b Marshall	0
S M Gavaskar, not out	36
A O Malhotra, c sub b Harper	9
S Yadav, not out	1
Extras (lb 2, nb 1)	3
Total (4 wickets)	69

R J Shastri, R M H Binny, *Kapil Dev, †S M H Kirmani and Maninder Singh, to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–0, 2–0, 3–54, 4–67.

BOWLING (to date): Marshall 6-4-3-2; Roberts 9-4-21-1; Davis 5-0-6-0; Holding 7-0-19-0; Harper 9-3-16-1.

Umpires: Swarup Kishanand M G Subramanium.

A tame conclusion

Durban (Reuter) – The West Indian XI and a South African XI drew their four-day match here yesterday with the Springboks making 59 without loss when they followed on in their second innings, 296 runs behind.

Clarke, the West Indian fast bowler, demolished the South African lower order batting as the home side slumped to 333 all out in their first innings and the match died a slow death.

Clarke took four for 24 in five overs with the second new ball to send the Springboks crashing after they had been well placed at 302 for six. He ended with figures of five for 105 off 32.1 overs, and was well supported by Moseley his new ball partner, who took three for 76.

During the afternoon only Kourie dealt competently with the bowling, scoring 32 in 79 balls, but Clarke came back into the attack to bowl both him and Jefferies with successive balls. Pollock had livened up the morning session with a cheerful half century during which he offered a number of chances.

WEST INDIAN XI: First innings 529 for 7 dec (L G Rowe 157, A I Kallicharran 103, D R Parry 63 not out, F da C Stephenson 53).

SOUTH AFRICAN XI: First innings

S J Cook c Murray b Clarke	69
H R Fotheringham lbw b Moseley	0
*P N Kirsten c Murray b Moseley	84
R G Pollock b Parry	62
K S McKewen c sub b Moseley	11
C E B Rice c and b Parry	7
A J Kourie b Clarke	32
†R V Jennings b Clarke	18
G S le Roux c Stephenson b Clarke	11
S T Jefferies b Clarke	0
D Hobson not out	12
Extras (b4, lb9, w1, nb13)	27

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-132, 3-219, 4-239, 5-249, 6-257, 7-302, 8-313, 9-313, 10-333.

BOWLING: Clarke 32.1-11-105-5, Moseley 26-5-76-3; Stephenson 21-5-61-0; Parry 25-7-62-2; King 2-1-2-0.

Second Innings

S J Cook not out	30
H R Fotheringham not out	22
Extras (l-b 2, n-b 5)	7
Total (no wkt)	59

BOWLING: Clarke, 3–0–9–0; Stephenson, 6–1–16–0; Moseley, 4–2–8–0; King, 6–2–13–0; Kallicharran, 5–2–6–0.


RUGBY UNION

Barbarians match could put Cardus back in reckoning

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The England selectors will gather at Leicester this evening to dot the i's and cross the t's on the two trial teams to play at Twickenham on January 7. They will have enjoyed beforehand the annual engagement between Leicester and the Barbarians at Welford Road, though the game itself is unlikely to create any radical change in their thinking.

It seems logical to suppose that they will choose as one trial side the England team who beat New Zealand last month, with the obvious exceptions of the two injured Leicester players, Wheeler, the captain, and Dodge. The interesting questions that remain, therefore, are who they will invite to be caretaker captain and whether they will go for a genuine centre in place of Dodge.

The captaincy seems likely to remain among the forwards, who should include Scott, captain in two internationals last season, and Colclough, who performed well as captain of the London division against the All Blacks.

Both have plentiful experience and have won the respect of their colleagues over the past four seasons, which should help them overcome the obvious difficulty of knowing that the role will revert to Wheeler when he is fit. The England hooker is due to hve the plaster removed from his broken left thumb on Friday and will hope to play for one of the Leicester sides on January 7.

Since Simpson, of Sale, was Wheeler's deputy against New Zealand, he will presumably come into the senior side as hooker. At centre the selectors have the opportunity of choosing Davies, currently playing at stand-off half for Wasps but with the best part of an international season at centre behind him, or going for an uncapped player such as Palmer (Bath) or Barley (Wakefield).

Or they could go for Cardus, which is where today's game becomes more relevant. The burly Yorkshireman is at centre for the Barbarians; he was capped twice by England four years ago and toured the Far East that same year with England. He has been playing well in a successful club side, albeit on the wing for much of the time, and he will certainly make Leicester aware of his presence.


Cardus: burly threat

Apart from the two Leicester men, and Melville, the Wasps scrum half, who is just beginning to find his way back after injury, there are no obvious unavailabilities to disturb the selectors.

Richard Greenwood, England's coach, has had a close look at the four divisions at area squad training during the last month and has been much encouraged by the enthusiasm shown. He was equally encouraged to see his experienced right wing, Carleton, scoring two tries for Orrell against Bedford last Friday to indicate that he has recovered from the knee injury sustained against New Zealand last month.

The essential, indeed eternal, question that Greenwood has been asking players is "What happens next?" in the hope that they will come up with something other than the usual stereotyped answers. "I think we are going to see some very useful things happening after the players have thought about it for a while," Greenwood said. "Not necessarily in the trial game but working among ourselves in squard sessions."

All the selectors have agreed on the principle of two sides being prepared by two coaches for the trial with the purpose, Greenwood says, of giving the existing England side as hard a game as possible.

It will not, of course, be an entirely easy game at Leicester today as the club side seek recovery from a clutch of adverse results over the last four weeks.

LEICESTER: W Hare; B Evans, C Woodward, I Bates, R Underwood; L Cusworth, N Youngs, M Whitcombe, C Tressler, S Redfern, R Tebbutt, N Gillingham, M Foulkes-Arnold, A Marriott, D Richards.

BARBARIANS: B Vives (Agen); S Holdstock (Nottingham), C Green (Canterbury), R Cardus (Wasps), M Bailey (Cambridge University), G Davies (Cardiff), A Donald (Wanganui), I Stephens (Bridgend), J L Dupont (Agen), P Blakeway (Gloucester), K Bowring (London Welsh), M Colclough (Wasps), S Bainbridge (Gosforth), P Winterbottom (Headingley), M Bargan (Oxford University).
Referee: D Burnett (Ireland).

Laidlaw hopes dwindle

By David Hands

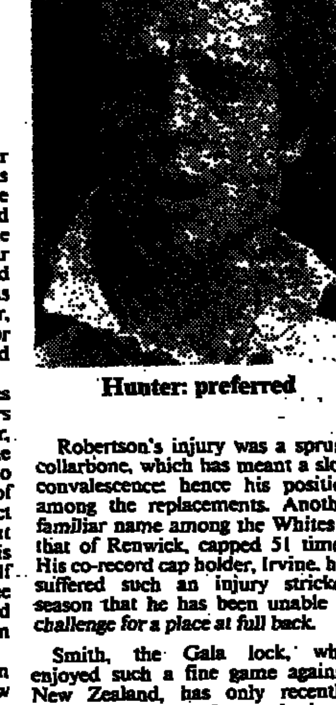
After 23 consecutive games for his country, Roy Laidlaw finds himself demoted to the junior side for Scotland's trial at Murrayfield on January 7. Laidlaw, aged 30, the British Lions scrum half in all four internationals against New Zealand during the summer (the first as replacement), gives way to Hunter, who has the benefit of playing for Selkirk with Scotland's most capped stand-off half, Rutherford.

The Selkirk pair go into the Blues XV together while Laidlaw partners the promising Edinburgh youngster, Wyllie. The selection reflects the attitude of the district selectors, who preferred Hunter for the South of Scotland in the inter-district championship, and suggests that Laidlaw's hopes of becoming his country's most capped scrum half are slightly dimmer. He needs three more appearances to beat the record of Jimmy Nelson, established in 1931.

There are two other changes from the side who drew 25-25 with New Zealand last month. These are in the back row, where Beattie moves from the open side flank to his more accustomed position or No. 8 at the expense of another Lion, Paxton. The flank position goes to the Kelso player, Jeffery, who thus moves a step nearer a first cap after appearances for the Barbarians this season as well as for South of Scotland.

There is no doubt, however, that the Whites back row will give them a severe test, since the experience of Paxton and Leslie, who captains the junior side, is added to the raw enthusiasm of McGaughey, the No. 8, who has impressed as a flanker in the district championship.

It should be remembered that Scotland were forced to make three changes to their original selection to face New Zealand, infury precluding Leslie, Robertson (Melrose) and Munro (Ayr). Like Leslie, Munro gets his chance in the junior side and will hope to make a sufficient impression to relieve Pollock, the try-scorer against the All Blacks, of the place on the right wing and thereby add to his eight caps.


Hunter: preferred

Robertson's injury was a sprung collarbone, which has meant a slow convalescence: hence his position among the replacements. Another familiar name among the Whites is that of Renwick, capped 51 times. His co-record cap holder, Irvine, has suffered such an injury stricken season that he has been unable to challenge for a place at full back.

Smith, the Gala lock, who enjoyed such a fine game against New Zealand, has only recently recovered from damaged knee ligaments and hopes to prove his fitness in the club match with Kelso on Saturday. There are two London-based Scots in the teams, Cuthbertson the rugged Harlequins lock, in the senior side, and Gordon, the London Scottish centre, who was capped twice in Australia in 1982, in the Juniors.

BLUES: P Dods (Gala); J Pollock (Gosforth), E Kennedy, D Johnston (both Watsonians), R Baird (Kelso); J Rutherford, G Hunter (both Selkirk); J Aitken (Gala, capt), C Deans (Hawick), I Milne (Heriot's FP), J Calder (Stewart's Melville FP), W Cuthbertson (Harlequins), T Smith (Gala), J Jeffrey (Kelso), J Beattie (Glasgow Academicals).

WHITES: G Hastings (Watsonians); S Munro (Ayr), J Renwick (Hawick), R Gordon (London Scottish), I Tukalo (Selkirk); D Wyllie (Stewart's Melville FP), R Laidlaw (Jedforest); G Mackenzie (Highland), R Cunningham (Bath), N Rowan (Boroughmuir), S McGaughey, A Campbell, A Tomes (all Hawick), D Leslie (Gala, capt), I Paxton (Selkirk).

Replacements for both teams: forwards – D Sole (Exeter University), R Cunningham (Gala), G Runciman (Melrose), I McKie (Sale), F Calder (Stewart's Melville FP), D White (Gala). Backs – S Johnston (Watsonians), C Gass (Hawick), C Williamson (West of Scotland), K Robertson (Melrose), A Thomson (Kelso), P Steven (Heriot's FP).

Swansea graceful as swans

By Gerald Davies

Swansea	28
London Welsh	12

Swansea were back in top gear yesterday. On a gloomy, drizzling afternoon there were shades of that shimmering talent to show that all is not lost for them this year. None dazzled more than David Richards, whose two superb individual tries were the highlight of the game.

In contemplating the Welsh team for the international championship his name has been missing from everyone's list. But not after this performance. Although he was injured towards the end he should be fit for the squad training on January 9.

Both sides, tired from their previous day's exertions began by eyeing each other up. London Welsh were quicker to snap out of their lethargy. Ross, the Ne Zealander, moving up and down the lineout, ensured a fair share of possession which Ebsworth used mostly to kick; which was just as well since his threequarters, full of Christmas fare, were intent on dropping everything.

Much against the run of play, Swansea scored first; and a brilliant try it was, too. For almost the first time in the heavy conditions the ball went through more than a couple of pairs of hands. From a ruck Blyth came left to feed Setaro, who slipped his opposite number, for Phennah and Moriarty to drive down the touchline. Phennah reappeared to score the try, which Blyth converted.

Ebsworth kicked a penalty before the visitors scored their try. Jeremy Hughes changed the direction of the attack, went down the blind side of the ruck and went through a non-existent Swansea defence to link up with Tim Jones, who charged his way over to score. Ebsworth converted this as well as kicking another penalty.

If the visitors had been more aggressive and purposeful in the first half, the roles suddenly changed in the second. Snapping out of their first-half lethargy, the second half began with the home side exerting heavy pressure on the visitor's line. From a scrum underneath the London Welsh post, Aled Williams came right and, keeping his feet admirably in the sticky conditions, he dummied and jinked to score a marvellous try, which Blyth converted.

Swansea were now in rampant mood. Gareth Jenkins scythed his way through the defence. Moriarty was at his shoulder and he fed Roberts, who scored, Blyth converting. Soon after Williams picked up a loose ball to feed Richards who, with superb acceleration on the outside of his man, ran for 30 metres to score.

London Welsh still had their share of possession but the more robust Swansea forwards, now stirred into action in the deteriorating conditins, made life difficult for Davies at scrum half.

Playing more like the side that swept everything before them last season, there was no holding Swansea near the end. Once more Williams went throught the scrum and scissored with Richards going back left. With an easy, graceful run he moved outside, straightened and scored a superb try again which gave him a standing ovation. Blyth again converted.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Pheannah, A Williams, Roberts, Richards (2). Conversions: Blyth (4). London Welsh: Tries: T Jones. Penalties: Ebsworth (2).

Swansea: R Blyth; T Swift, D Richards (rep, M Wyatt), G Jenkins, D Setaro; A Williams, R Jones; K Colclough, J Herdman, C Williams, G Roberts, R Moriaty, T Cheeseman, G Phennah, P Moriarty.

London Welsh: P Greenway; D Williams, R Ackerman, J Hughes, (rep, I George), J Hurley; M Ebsworth, G Davies; T Jones, B Light, J Davies, P David, J Ross, G Lewis (rep, B Bradley), J Ford, P Conneen.

Referee: R O P Jones (Swansea).

CLUB MATCHES: Birkenhead Park 3, Waterloo 21; St Helens 15, Liverpool 12; Swansea 28, London Welsh 12; Torquay 18, Exeter 15.

● The Moseley flanker Dave Warren, who has played five games in a row, rests his suspect knees on Saturday, when Waterloo visit The Reddings. Chris Black returns and the other flank position goes to Caledon Richardson in the absence of Bob Barr on holiday.

Waterloo push Park clean off the rails

by Michael Stevenson

Birkenhead Park	3
Waterloo	21

The dominant Mersey sound yesterday was the howling of the gale at Upper Park, where Birkenhead Park entertained their near neighbours Waterloo to lose a spirited and enjoyable contest by single penalty to a goal, three tries and a penalty.

In Park's other holiday encounter, they had scored three tries to one in their narrow defeat by Liverpool, a result which has dented their hopes of a place in next year's Northern merit table; but there was no lack of spirit as they tore into Waterloo, encouraged by the strong wind on their backs.

Park had every chance of leading through a couple of early penalty chances by McNerlin, after Cotter had missed for Waterloo, but their strong early pressur could not disguise the fact that Waterloo, playing their fish calmly, were confident of netting him in the second half.

The nearest Birkenhead Park came to a try was when fluent passing carried the ball to Davenport on the left wing: he slipped his man and threw the bal inside to Freeman, who was felled fiecely but fairly by a superb covering tackle by Gallagher.

Through the event came markedly against the run of paly, it did not surprise many people when some gorgeous concerted passing and intelligent backing up took play deep into home territory, where Syddall crashed ponderously. His colleagues won the ruck and Carfoot danced away on the short side to put Cotter in for a try that was much facilitated by naive defending.

Flutters of optimism were again experienced by the home supporters when the stand-off half, Ferguson, jinked to within a couple of yards of the Waterloo line, but the visitors' tackling in general and that of the admirable Gallagher in particular never faltered. McNerlin cut Waterloo's lead to a single point with a penalty almost on half-time.

Facing the wind, Birkenhead Park found life a still more taxing affair. Six minutes into the second half, Carfoot broke on the open side from a lineout and virtually handed the ball to Syddall, who crashed over for a try. Cotter's penalty followed, awarded for offside and the reward for consistent pressure.

One would have thought that Waterloo would have welcomed the opportunity to throw the ball about with gay abandon in this context, but there are few frills on their game, highly competent though it may be.

Their next score followed a crash ball run by Syddall again: Reed also drove for the line and the irrepressible Fisher, the former Scotland hooker, emerged with the ball and an unlikely try which he celebrated with a suitably theatrical gesture. Cotter converted and Waterloo, now in total command, scored their last try when right to left passing gave Nutter his chance to feed the full back, Tickle, who side-stepped his way over for one of the best tries of the match.

Birkenhead Park: Penalty: McNerlin. Waterloo: Tries: Cotter, Syddall, Fisher, Tickle. Penalty and conversion: Cotter.

Birkenhead Park: J Reeve; P Kolokotroni, P McNerlin, C Freeman, B Elkerton, M Ferguson, S Ellis, J Cairns, R Tinsley, R Bold, K McGovern, P Greville, P McCrave, C Wainwright, K Fadigan. Waterloo: J Tickle; M Cotter, J Whitehead, S Nutter, M Molyneux, M Fletcher, D Carfoot, F McEvaley, C Fisher, S Peters, D Reed, J Syddall, N Wilkinson, L Conner, S Gallagher.

Referee: J Heaney (Liverpool).

MOTOR RACING


Piquet: accused

Piquet at the centre of fuel protest

Maranello, Italy (AP) – The Ferrari team have filed a formal protest to the International Auto Federation (FISA) about "illegal" fuel used by Nelson Piquet in some grand prix races of the 1983 world Formula One championship. A Ferrari spokesman said a similar protest had been filed by Renault.

Ferrari and Renault, while criticizing Piquet and his team, Brabham, do not want the driver punished but urge that "similar facts" are prevented in 1984, so that the credibility of the championship is safeguarded. In a telex sent to FISA's secretary general, Ferrari claimed that the Brabham car driven by Piquet in grand prix races in West Germany, Italy and Britain last season used fuel with an illegal number of octanes.

Ferrari said that octanes in Piquet's car reached as high as 102.8, compared with an authorized ceiling of 102.

Piquet, who has signed for Brabham, won the world drivers championship this year, accumulating decisive points in the last grand prix races of the season, including the ones in which he allegedly used irregular fuel.

The question of the octane rating of fuel used in certain cars is not the only technical matter on which clarification has been requested in grand prix circles during 1983, John Blunsden writes.

Other examples include the addition of water to the fuel air mixture, and the use of exhaust layouts which may aid the aerodynamic performance of the car.

Interpretation of rules is a perennial problem in motor racing, and a maximum effort should be made during the between-seasons period to resolve all such outstanding issues, whether they affect Formula One cars or saloons, rather than allow them to drag on and so confuse and undermine the smooth running of future championships.

The iron nerve of two young Europeans

Ballesteros raises the US Tour to a pitch of excitement

Paris (AFP) – Tom Watson, of the United States, the personification of the man who can keep his head while all around him are losing theirs, won his fifth Open Championship in nine years in 1983. Surprisingly it proved to be the first and last big tournament victory of the quiet American's year.

Watson lost by one stroke to Larry Nelson in the United States Open, was five strokes adrift of the US Masters champion Severiano Ballesteros, and was nowhere as Hal Sutton won the 65th USPGA title. His only other achievement of note was to ensure that the United States won a narrow and hard-fought Ryder Cup victory over Europe, when he beat Bernard Gallacher, of Britain 2 and 1 in the final singles to make the final score 14½ points to 13½ in the Americans' favour.

But if Watson was having a lean year, two young Europeans came very much to the fore.

The mercurial Ballesteros finally controlled his own flamboyance to win not only the US Masters for the second time, but also $300,000 in the Sun City million dollar classic in Bophuthatswana. Nick Faldo of Britain, made it a European tour to remember by becoming the first man to win five tournaments, three of them in succession, and earning an exemption for the US tour next year.

Watson had a successful year in 1982, winning two grand slam titles in the space of a month, the US Open and his fourth British Open. This year, having yielded to Nelson in the US Open, he went to Royal Birkdale a favourite at slightly lower odds than he might otherwise have expected. Once more he had to survive a tense final round, as the balance shifted almost with every stroke. At one point, approaching the final holes, no fewer than five players shared the lead, with a further six within two strokes.

Cool temperament

It was then that Watson's cool temperament came into its own, and he edged into the lead with a birdie from 15ft on the 16th and safely negotiated the last two holes with par figures for a slender one-stroke victory over two other Americans, Andy Bean and Hale Irwin.

Watson's four-round total of 275 (13 under par) brought him a prize £40,000. Should he equal the record held by Harry Vardon, of Britain at St Andrew's in 1984 by winning his sixth British Open title, he will pick up £50,000 in a tournament for which the total prize money will rise by £100,000 to £410,000.

In a year when the United States tour was in a low-key, it was left to Ballesteros to provide the most excitement with victory in the Master in April. He already shared with Gary Player of South Africa, the distinction of being the only non-American golfer to win the tournament. After his victory in 1980 his second success came in emphatic fashion. Rain delayed the final round, but Ballesteros was least affected by the conditions and achieved a round of (three under par) for a spectacular victory by four strokes, with an aggregate of 280 (eight under par).

Watson, his playing partner, recovered slendidly and, at the eighth, cut the Spaniard's lead to two strokes, but once Ballesteros was in front, he stayed there and Watson slipped back to joint third, five strokes behind the champion. Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite, of the United States, finished joint second with 284.

Year of the underdog

With Nelson winning the US Open, and Hal Sutton the USPGA title, it was very much a year for the underdog, particularly for Sutton, aged 25, in only his second year on the tour. He led throughout the USPGA event also won the Tournament Players' championship and finished the season as the leading money winner on the US tour.

The Ryder Cup showed the Europeans to be stronger than they had been for some time, but still not quite strong enough to win for the first time on American soil in this, the 25th competition. Since 1927 when the wealthy British seed merchant Samuel Ryder put up the silver trophy for competition between leading professionals from both sides of the Atlantic, the Americans have won the cup 21 times, lost three and drawn one of the biennial matches.

But it took dramatic comebacks on the last day in Palm Beach Gardens to secure their 1983 victory, with Fuzzy Zoeller and Lanny Wadkins rescuing themselves from the jaws of defeat, Zoeler to halve with Ballesteros and Wadkins to halve with another Spaniard, Jose-Maria Cañizares.

In Europe, Faldo's fine season was not without its share of controversy, as in the world match-play event at Wentworth, he took what many considered an unsporting advantage over the Australian Graham Marsh in the first round. He hooked a seven-iron round the trees at the 16th and the ball rolled off the back of the green into a crowd of spectators, only to emerge four seconds later, apparently propelled by a member of the crowd.

Amid angry scenes, the stunned Marsh watched as Faldo was allowed to play his ball from the putting surface to make his par four, and went one up as Marsh took three putts. Marsh lost two and one, an official was dismissed on the spot for shouting at Faldo, and the British player went on to reach the final. But in the eyes of many, justice was then seen to be done, as a subdued Faldo was beaten three and two by another Australian, Greg Norman, who won his second match play event.

Elsewhere, Nick Price of South Africa achieved a memorable victory in the world series in Akron, Ohio, taking the title from under the noses of Jack Nicklaus and Johnny Miller, by four strokes, having led from start to finish.

Japan's leading golfer, Isao Aoki, won the Japanese Open after a sudden-death play-off with Terry Gale of Australia, to add to his victory in the Hawaian Open in February and a fine display in the European Open at Sunningdale in September when he beat Ballesteros, Faldo and Carl Mason, of the United States, into second place by two strokes. His victory, in Europe's richest tournament after the British Open, was his second on British soil after his world match-play triumph in 1978.

Canizares, a former caddie, found his way into the record books without actually realising it at the time, when he won the Bob Hope classic at Moor Park. For it was later announced that the event, one of the most enjoyable, and popular on the circuit, would not be played again.

New frontier

When Ballesteros won the Sun City Million Dollar Classic in early December, his tournament record; four-round total of 274, gave him a comfortable five-stroke victory over David Graham, of Australia, Faldo and Zoeller, and with it a prize of $300,000.

Finally, 1983 was the year when golf broke down the final frontier and at last became accessible to China. The legendary American Arnold Palmer was the man responsible, bringing the game back to the mainland for the first time since the communist regime banned it in 1949.

In October, Palmer, 54, made a visit to the Chung Shan golf course, designed by his company, and was pleased with the progress of the course, which is due to open in April.


Faldo: Member of the privileged class of one

There were a dozen or so golf courses in the People's Republic, mainly for the use of expatriates, when the game was banned on the grounds that it was a bourgeois pastime, and the courses are now all public parks.

The new course, 5,991 metres and par-72, planted with Bermuda grass from the United States and is surrounded by paddy fields, a far cry from the plains of Augusta, Georgia, or the genteel seaside atmosphere of the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews.

But then, given the aptitude for the game the Chinese have already displayed, it may not be long before the name Chung Shan is firmly on the golfing map of the world.

RACING: SECOND SUCCESSIVE WELSH GRAND NATIONAL TRIUMPH FOR JENNY PITMAN

Francome and Burrough Hill Lad complete Welsh coup

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Jenny Pitman continued on her triumphant march at Chepstow yesterday when she trained the winner of the Coral Welsh National for the second year in succession. Twelve months ago it was Corbiere who did her proud; this time it was Burrough Hill Lad. When the weights were published Mrs Pitman put her head on the block and said Burrough Hill Lad was so well handicapped that he would win if she could get him right. How right she was. Those who took her at her word and backed that opinion at all odds from 20-1 downto 100-30 have her forthrightness and skills to thank for a nice coup which cost the sponsors a pretty penny or two.

By any standards this was a fine feat of training. Burrough Hill Lad had not run in a steeplechase for 15 months because of a strained check ligament. To cure that he had to be bar-fired and to make matters worse his only race in the meantime was over hurdles. Mrs Pitman intended running Burrough Hill Lad over fences at either Worcester or Lingfield last week but bad weather frustrated her.

Despite all this she was still able to turn Burrough Hill Lad out looking a picture of health and fitness in the paddock before yesterday's race. Ridden with the style and guile that one has grown to associate with John Francome, Burrough Hill Lad's performance matched his appearance.

The last time Francome rode at Chepstow he incurred the displeasure of the stewards for hitting a horse too hard and too often with his whip. Ironically he barely had to move a muscle this time as he crept around the inside saving precious ground. "A peach of a race," was the generous way that Mrs Pitman described Francome's riding. And it was a fair description. Earlier I had likende it unto the sort of race one normally only sees in a dream. When asked if he was worried at any stage of the race, the champion jockey, who is seldom caught short of words, replied: "No. My only anxiety was whether they had brought a wheelbarrow big enough for my present!"

Francome added that Burrough Hill Lad was a very nice horse who had given him a really good feeling. Mrs Pitman promptly nominated him for the Cheltenham Gold Cup rather than the Grand National. This resulted in a 33-1 quote from those bookmakers present. To get things into perspective, however, it must be appreciated that Burrough Hill Lad was getting 12lb from the runner-up Royal Judgement, yesterday. Good horse that Royal Judgement is, he is not Gold Cup class.

Carrying 8lb more than when he won 12 months ago, Corbiere could finish only sixth this time but Mrs Pitman was not disappointed and he remains favourite for the Grand National. Corbiere blew hard afterwards and Aintree is still a long way away. Sadly, Get out of Me Way, my selection, hurt his back and had to be pulled up before the second last fence. He had been going well and was ideally-placed when his rider Paul Barton suddenly felt him go wrong.

Dodgy Future was made favourite to win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham in March after winning the Finale Junior Hurdle. But, even allowing for the fact that his trainer Stan Mellor has won the race twice in recent years with Pollardstown and Saxon Farm, the 12-1 offered by Hills looks mean

Things did not go according too plan for Shaikh Ali Abu Khamsin at Kempton on Boxing Day with the total eclipse of Fifty Dollars More in the big race and the defeats of Gaye Brief and Silver Wind. But the man who has been the leading owner under National Hunt rules for the past two seasons can experience the sweeter side of life again at Warwick today by winning the Edward Courage Cup, run in memory of another great supporter of the winter game, with Half Free. Green Bramble, a decent hurdler but a big disappointment in his only race over fences, has an ideal opportunity to atone in the Jacob Marley Novices' Chase.



Happy habit: Jenny Pitman repeats her smile of 12 months ago after Burrough Hill Lad's Chepstow success.

Mossmorran lands a gamble

By Michael Seely

The extraordinary rags-to-riches saga of Mossmorran continued at Wetherby yesterday. Michael Dickinson, the champion trainer, celebrated his triumphant return from Kempton by paying a visit to his local course to watch Dermot Browne ride his own horse, Browne's Gazette to 12-length victory in the second division of the Bradford Novices' hurdle. And Peter Easterby gave another good crowd plenty to shout about when landing a double with Kanenomore and Torreon. But the story of the day undoubtedly concerned Mossmorran, who brought off a £10,000 gamble for three milkmen, two publicans and a fruiterer in the Knaresborough handicap hurdle.

Ridden by Graham Bradley, the 100-30 favourite forged clear of his 16 rivals halfway up the straight to beat Chetel by five lengths. Andy Scott has already executed one major coup this season when winning with Hills Guard at Newcastle and on this occasion the Almwick trainer was full of similar confidence beforehand. "I told the owners to help themselves as this one wouldn't get beat," he said afterwards.

Scott certa'inly deserves all the credit that is going for his transformation of a moderate three-year-old into a horse who has now won six races and who will probably start favourite for the Ernest Robinson Hurdle at Cheltenham next week. "Vincent Burns, landlord of the Miners Arms at Madomsley, near Consett, asked me to take Mossmorran. He was turned out in a field with a pony and a donkey. They were so shaggy that it was hard to tell which was which."

Ear-splitting yells of jubilation from his six joint-owners greeted Mossmorran on his return to the unsaddling enclosure. "We had to start our rounds at two this morning to get finished in time," Trevor Hanover, a Durham milkman, said. "but it's all been worthwhile after having had such a good bet." Mr Hanover is now looking forward to another tilt at the ring at Cheltenham.

Browne's Gazette is the only horse that his owner has in training with Dickinson, for whom Browne, the champion amateur, works as assistant trainer. "He may be a good jockey, but he is one of my most difficult owners," said Dickinson. "The trouble is that he's such a slow payer!"

Col Dick Warden, the owner of Easterby's first winner, Karenomore, is better known in his role as advisor of bloodstock to Shaikh Mohammed. He acted as the purchaser not only of Shareef Dancer, but also of the record £10.2m Northern Dancer yearling colt at Keeneland last July. "I was in Lexington recently when someone told me that Capt Donald Swann had a likely-looking five-year-old in Northern Ireland", he said. "I'm not telling you what I gave for him, but although Kanrenomore may have been cheap by some people's standards, he was certainly expensive by mine."

At Newcastle this afternoon Warden and Easterby can strike another blow by winning the first division of the Partridge Novices' Hurdle with Jobroke, a 15,000 guineas Newmarket sales purchase. Dickinson can capture the second division of this race with Pacifiste, an expensive failure when second to Millie Grey at Kelso.

The Salmons Spray Hurdle is the feature at Fontwell. Cut A Dash had not been seen in public this season but Nadine Smith's four-year-old beat Wollow Will at Cheltenham last season and also finished strongly when third in the Placepot Hurdle at Kempton. Cut A Dash should now prove to good for the able but untrustworthy Connaught River.

The Tsarevich earns right to lose squiggle

By John Karter

For a horse who has won 10 races and who brought his total earnings to over £34,000 with a victory in yesterday's Ladbroke Handicap Chase at Kempton Park, The Tsarevich has had some amazingly nasty things said about him. Most of them are based on the fact that, as an up-and-coming hurdler at the Cheltenham Festival, The Tsarevich tried to run off the course towards the saddling boxes when in contention at the last flight.

Nicky Henderson, the seven-year-old's trainer, thinks it is about time people forgot that particular incident, and it is difficult to disagree with him. After all, who can blame any horse at the business end of a gruelling race for preferring the safety and comfort of a stable to a slog in the mud up that steep hill.

Anyway, it was this piece of too-quick thinking plus another incident on the same course when The Tsarevich was once again accused of ducking the issue that landed the unfortunate animal with perhaps the ultimate insult – A Timeform squiggle.

This is the sign in that revered Turf publication that denotes a horse who cannot be trusted. However, while Hederson wants this particular "rogue's badge" removed forthwith, The Tsarevich's owner, Mrs Judy Henty, is quite happy for it to remain there indefinitely as she considers that it has been lucky.

Henderson says he has an answer, if one is needed, for those who say that The Tsarevich has not always appeared to tackle the task in hand with the greatest relish – he has always found the others going too fast for him over two miles. This season The Tsarevich has won two valuable races when tried over 2½ miles and Henderson believes that three miles will suit him even better.

The Tsarevich has also resented being restrained in the past, and yesterday the race was run to suit him on all counts. Barry Wright on Mr Peapock set a fast pace and The Tsarevich was able to lob along behind him until John White shot him into the lead approaching the final turn. From then on, it was a case of the further they went, the further The Tsarevich went away, and the nearer that squiggle came to being finally erased.

There must be times when jockeys wish they could award squiggles to horses who give them "hairy" rides, and if this were so, surely Michael Dickinson's eight-year-old, Fearless Imp, would be a leading candidate. Chris Bell, Dickinson's 21-year-old apprentice, must have felt like a rodeo rider yesterday. Fearless Imp rocketed off from the start in the Avenue Chase and proceeded to virtually kick several of the fences out of the ground before holding the challenge of Jugador by a whisker.

However, having survived all Fearless Imp's attempts to get rid of him, Bell – who looks after The Mighty Mac and Rathgorman at Harewood – was "unseated" by the stewards who found that Fearless Imp had interfered with Jugador by bumping him near the finish. Jugador was awarded the race and Bell receive a two-day suspension.

This was the second time during the afternoon that fortune smiled on Scudamore, because in the previous race, the Feltham Novices' Chase, he had deputized for Steve Smith Eccles – injured in an earlier race – on Duke of Milan, who made all the running to beat the favourite, A Kinsman. The winner and runner-up are both above-average novices and will meet again in the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham in March.

Harveystown underlines Irish novice strength

From Our Irish Correspondent

Further evidence that this year's crop of Irish novice chasers is the best for some years came at Leopardstown yesterday when Harveystown, the only novice in the field, proved too good for his dozen opponents of far greater experience in the Findus Handicap Chase over three miles. As his regular partner Brendan Sheridan is still nursing an injured shoulder, it turned out to be a chance ride for Tommy Carmody, and he rode one of his best races to overcome both the flattering Young Driver and a wandering loose horse.

Harveystown appeared to have very little room going into the final furlong but a small gap opened and Carmody drove his mount through. Harveystown, a six-year-old, was the youngest runner in the field and only three of his opponents, Royal Bond, Drumlargan and Kilkilowen, were trying to give him weight. Royal Bond ran well under top weight but the unlucky horse of the race was probably Sicilian Answer who skidded on landing over the second last fence and all but came down. He was galloping very smoothly at the time.

This afternoon is Black and White day at Leopardstown with the scotch whisky firm sponsoring a handicap hurdle and a handicap chase over two miles. Southern Music, disqualified for carrying the wrong weight after winning the Black and White Hurdle at Fairyhouse, is my fancy to gain compensation while Peter McCreery has a lively lightweight, Good Example, to represent him in the chase, the weights for which are headed by a former champion over this distance, Drumgora.

TENNIS

Australia expect Cash to deliver

Melbourne (Reuter) – Paul McNamee, in what he called "The best match I ever played" and Mark Edmondsdon, overpowered Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson, of Sweden, to give Australia a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup final with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory in the doubles at Kooyong yesterday.

The triumph put Austraia within one victory of winning the Davis Cup for the first time since 1977, and they will be favoured to do so in the first of the reverse singles today when Pat Cash faces Joakim Nystrom.

John Fitzgerald, who beat Nystrom yesterday, and Mats Wilander, Cash's conqueror on the first day, will meet in the final match of the tie.

Hans Olsson, the Swedish captain, admitted his confidence was slipping away, but believed Sweden still have a good chance. Neale Fraser, the Australian captain, would not be drawn on which of the two final singles he thought might be easier to win.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but yesterday had been their best display in the Davis Cup. McNamee gave an outstanding performance, which he said was the pinnacle of his career. "That for me was the match of my life," he said. In 1980 or 1982 he won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara.

Edmondson, provided sound support throughout and his powerful first serve was a constant problem for the Swedish pair. Simonsson had trouble handling Edmondson's first serve all day while Jarryd was plagued by unforced volleying errors.

Jarryd, replaced by Nystrom in Sweden's singles line up for the tie, double-faulted in the third game of the opening set to give Australia the critical break, and games went with serve until McNamee clinched the set in the tenth game.

The second set was similar. In the third set the Australians immediately tightened their grip. Simonssion lost his serve in the fifth game and Jarryd surrendered his in the seventh

McNamee and Edmondson extended their flawless doubles record in the Davis Cup, having won all four encounters. Simonon and Jarryd now have a 6-2 winning record in cup ties, and McNamee said he had lost to the Swedes three times in a row previously.

Olsson denied suggestions the Swedish players had been over-confident about the tie after winning Australia's two main grass court championships: Wilander won the Australian Open to weeks ago and Nystron the New South Wales Open last week during which he beat Cash.

Nystrom, who lost to Fitzgrald 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 on Monday, will be under enormous pressure to keep Swedish hopes alive in the first match today. If he wins Sweden would be favoured to take the tie through Wilander, who gave Sweden a 1-0 lead yesterday with his 6-3, 4-6, 9-7, 6-3 victory over Cash.

That, however, would be to underestimate Fitzgerald's tremendous will to win in Davis Cup singles.

● Miami: Kent Carlsson showed that Sweden appear to have yet another fine tennis player in the making as he won the Orange Bowl Junior Championships here (AFP reports).

Carlsson, took the title after beating Emilio Sanchez, of Spain, 6-2, 6-4 in the final.

YACHTING

Leap-frog with the Panda

From John Roberson Sydney

Throughout Monday night and Tuesday, the British team in the Southern Cross Cup, sponsored by Hitachi, have played leap-frog with the New South Wales team for second place, behind the very strong New Zealand Team. At the 7am compulsory radio report on Tuesday, the three British yachts were lying third (Panda), twelth (Indulgence) and twenty-second (Jade), which puts them two points ahead of New South Wales.

However, by three in the afternoon, when the next report was made, they had dropped to 22 points behind New South Wales, a situation due more to that team's improvement than to a decline in the British positions.

During this 24 hour period, the fleet have sailed into 30 knot southerly winds, which have caused a number of retirements with gear failure and injury. The forecast for the next 24 hours was for the wind to ease to 10 to 15 knots, and swing to the north-east, conditions that should favour the British.

But it is going to need a dramatic change of form for the British, or any one else to catch or overtake the New Zealanders. Their yachts were lying first, second and fifth of the Southern Cross Cup competitors yesterday afternoon, and as a team, they are 92 points ahead of their nearest rival.

A long way in front of the rest of the fleet, the battle of the maxi yachts continued between the Bermudian yacht Condor and her arch rival, Nirvana, from the United States. Condor took the lead during Tuesday night, and for most of Wednesday held a three-mile advantage over Nirvana.

But the Sydney sloop, Apollo, emerged as a surprise challenger to the leading contenders. Condor led by one mile and a half from Nirvana after covering 60 miles in the eight hours between radio reports. At that point, the leaders had travelled about one-third of the 630-nautical mile journey to Hobart. But Apollo, helmed by Warwick Rooklyn, closed the gap on her bigger rivals in a day of cat and mouse tactics.

While Condor and Nirvana chased each other further out to sea in search of more wind, Rooklyn chose to stay closer to shore. And the ploy worked, as Apollo closed the gap by more than two-and-a-half miles. By sunset, the Sydney sloop was in third place, only three miles astern of Nirvana.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1, New Zealand, [illegible] pts; 2, New South Wales, 442; 3, Britain, [illegible] pts.

Fontwell Park

Going: Good

1.0 TORTINGTON CHASE (Selling handicap: £1,096: 3m 2f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 402n13p AMBREMONT (Mrs J Thomsett) D Elsworth 10-12-5 — –
4 200111- HULDA (R Strong) J Jenkins 8-11-6 — J Francome
5 304-2fp TRUNCHEON (CD) (R Bastien) M Madgwick 8-10-11 — A Madgwick
8 p00-020 POOR SON (B Chamberlain) R Voorspuy 7-10-3 — R Rowell
11 [illegible] FRENCH BOB (T Jarvis) W Turner 9-10-0 — –
12 [illegible] KNIGH HIGHWAY (T Doyle) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-10-0 — R Goldstein

[illegible]

1.30 'SALMON SPRAY' HURDLE (4-y-o: £3,064: 2m 2f) (8)

[illegible]

2.0 TATTERSALLS CHASE (Novices: mares: £1,153: 2m 2f 110yd) (13)

[illegible]

2.30 BRIGHTON HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £804: 2m 2f) (17)

[illegible]

3.0 WHITELAW CHASE (Handicap: £2,422: 2m 2f 110yd) (7)

[illegible]

3.30 BRIGHTON HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £825: 2m 2f) (18)

[illegible]



Josh Gifford

Richard Rowe

Fontwell selections

By Michael Seely

1.0 French Bob. 1.30 Cut A Dash. 2.0 Presceena Wood. 2.30 Waterhead. 3.0 Ahaghaderry Run. 3.30 Oula Owl.

Warwick

GOING: soft.

1.0 BOB CRATCHIT HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m) (21 runners)

2 0910 HARFORD (CD) B McMahon 6-11-7 — R Crank
6 AREN'T WE ALL R Armytage 4-11-0 — A Webber
8 0 BROWN BLAZER R Armytage 5-11-0 — Mr M Armytage 7
11 0 CRODAR J Webber 4-11-0 — G McCourt
13 0 DYNASTIC BAY D Nicholson 5-1-0 — S Lovejoy 7
14 ECHO SOUNDER D Nicholson 4-11-0 — P Scudamore

[illegible]

1.30 SCROOGE HURDLE (Novices: selling: £483: 2m 5f) (14)

[illegible]

17 pp MARKOMLEEKAR N Tinkler 3-10-7 — –
21 100 BONNY MUSIC B Forsey 3-10-2 — –
22 CIDER WITH KATHY C Wildman 3-10-2 — P Hobbs
23 0p FAIRSEN (B) D Jenny 3-10-2 — –

7-4 Petrocelli, 5-2 Dinner Date, 5 Princess Saluki, 6 Picotee, 8 Cider With Kathy, 12 Beau Sauvage, 14 others.

2.0 EDWARD COURAGE CHASE (handicap: £3,303: 3m) (7)

1 1100- MANTON CASTLE (D) R Shaw 9-11-10 — P Nicholls
3 2-424 SAINT TAFFY J Webber 7-11-5 — G McCourt
6 3-2p4 ACARINE (D) P W Harris 7-11-0 — –
7 3u13 HALF FREE F Winter 7-11-0 — B de Haan
12 1122 BASHFUL LAD (CD) M Oliver 8-10-8 — –
13 2233 RUPERTINO (D) E Owen jun 8-10-3 — R Stronge 4
19 0432 WELLIAMSON (D) E Witts 9-10-0 — C Mann 4

Evens Half Free, 3 Saint Taffy, 5 Bashful Lad, 8 Rupertino, 10 Manton Castle, 12 Williamson, 16 Acarine.

2.30 TINY TIM HURDLE (Handicap: £1,388: 2m) (16)

2 010- DIAMOND HUNTER (D) N Gaselee 5-11-13 — H Davies
3 2311- ISHKOMANN (D) J Spearing 4-11-13 — R Linley
9 0012/ MARCELLINO (D) Mrs T Pitkington 7-11-6 — –
13 2321 SKYLANDER (D) F Walwyn 4-11-2 — K Mooney
15 2100 CITY LINK EXPRESS (D) D Wilson 6-10-13 — P Scudamore
19 1413 FIT FOR A KING (D) J Webber 4-10-11 — –
20 221d SILENT ECHO A Blackmore 8-10-10 — Mr R Dunwoody 7
27 24015 RAWTY (D) J Spearing 5-10-8 — –
28 p213- ROYSCRIPT J Chugg 6-10-8 — –
35 3084 ROUTE MARCH (D) P Pritchard 4-10-8 — –
36 010/0 BAZZ'S BOY (D) Mrs B Waring 7-10-3 — –
38 10-4u MORNING LINE (D) P M Taylor 6-10-2 — A Carrol
41 30-14 BOLD ILLUSION (D) M Eckley 5-10-0 — –
42 00-10 MANDRIANO Mrs M Rimell 4-10-0 — –
46 0-002 GOOD OFFICES R Griffiths 6-10-0 — A O'Hagan
48 -002-0 EXCLUSIVE FOX K White 6-10-0 — –

Skylander, 9-2 Silent Echo, 5 Diamond Hunter, 6 Mandriano, 8 Ishkomann, 10 Fit For A King, 12 Good Offices, 14 City Link Express, 16 others.

3.0 JACOB MARLEY CHASE (novices: £1,236: 2m) (18)

[illegible]

3.30 BOB CRATCHIT HURDLE (Div II: novices) (£690: 2m) (22)

[illegible]

10 03-00 CHARLEMOUNT J Fox 6-11-0 — –
16 00 DESERT AIR K Bridgwater 4-11-0 — W Worthington 7
17 02-03 FALKLAND HERO J Webber 4-11-0 — –
18 0p-40 FASHION BOY (B) B Shaw 5-11-0 — –
21 FORCE OF DESTINY N Gaselee 4-11-0 — V McKevitt 4
23 GANDOUGE LANE J Old 6-11-0 — –
28 MANDY'S SEAL J Harris 5-11-0 — J A Harris
29 b MARSH LANE (BF) F Winter 4-11-0 — B de Haan
30 03 MASTER BOATMAN P M Taylor 4-11-0 — A Carroll
31 p MORGANS GOLD P Oliver 4-11-0 — –
33 0 PARISH RIGGED T Forster 5-11-0 — H Davies
35 QUITE JUSTICE (B) K Morgan 4-11-0 — C McSharry 7
36 pp-02 RAJENS AIR Mrs B Waring 6-11-0 — –
38 STEEL PASS M Usher 5-11-0 — –
39 0 THRYLOS A Chamberlain 4-11-0 — A Chamberlain 4
41 00-p WADSWICK LAD R Barton 5-11-0 — –
42 0p0p- WOODSPICE E Witts 6-11-0 — C Mann 4

9-4 Master Boatman, 100-30 Marsh Lane, 5 Flying Squad, 6 A La Vat, 8 Parish Rigged, 10 Bramblings, 12 Falkland Hero, 14 Force Of Destiny, 16 others.

Warwick selections

By Michael Phillips

1.0 Salman. 1.30 Petrocelli. 2.0 Half Free. 2.30 Skylander. 3.0 Green Bramble. 3.30 Bramblings.

Newcastle

GOING: Soft

12.45 PARTRIDGE HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: novices: £724: 2m 120yds) (17 runners)

1 212 ALBERTAT Denys Smith 11-1 — G Bradely
2 2100 GILDED STRACOMEN (B) G Lockerbie 11-1 — C Hawkins
3 ANCAT M W Easterby 10-10 — P Tuck
4 0 AUKLAND EXPRESS Denys Smith 10-10 — J Murphy
5 BLACK FALCON M Lambert 10-10 — P A Charlton
6 0022 GAYGIG D Chapman 10-10 — C Pimlott
8 01 GENNARO M Naughton 10-10 — R Lamb
11 04 HOLLY BUOY M Avison 10-10 — Mr D Browne
12 JOBROKE M H Easterby 10-10 — Mr T Easterby
13 3 KEYCORN M H Easterby 10-10 — J O'Neill
17 0 SON OF MANADO S Leadbetter 10-10 — A Brown
18 0 VINTAGE TOLL J FitzGerald 10-10 — M Dwyer
19 JENDOR V Thompson 10-5 — Mr M Thompson 7
20 0 KATIE BOURNE E Carter 10-5 — M Pepper 4
22 30 MISS SINCLAIR M Lambert 10-5 — D Oldham
23 REDGRAVE CREATIVE T Craig 10-5 — M Ennis
24 0 SWEET COLLEEN M W Easterby 10-5 — A Dickman

11-4 Albertat, 7-2 Gennaro, 9-2 Keycorn, 7 Gilded Stracomer, 8 Vintage Roll, 12 Jobroke, 14 Miss Sinclair, 20 others.

1.15 GROUSE HURDLE (4-y-o: selling: £633: 2m 120yd) (7)

1 00-0 CITRUS D McCain 11-0 — K Doolan 7
2 0 FELSTED ADMIRAL N Bycroft 11-0 — D Oldham
3 430-0 MARACAS BAY N Waggott 11-0 — G Bradley
6 0 TIGHT TURN V Thompson 11-0 — Mr M Thompson 7
7 3040 TUMBLE JIM (B) M P Naughton 11-0 — J O'Neill
8 000u ALIMP N Waggott 10-9 — Mr T Jefferey 7
9 04-00 EXCAVATOR LADY (B) Mrs M Nesbitt 10-9 — M Pepper 4

7-4 Tumble Jim, 5-2 Maracas Bay, 4 Excavator Lady, 7 Tight Turn, 12 Felsted Admiral, 20 others.

1.45 GAME BIRD CHASE (handicap: £1,494: 2m 4f) (10)

4 13-01 DUSKY DUKE W A Stephenson 8-11-9 (5 ex) — R Lamb
5 2103 MAGIC TIPP (CD) J W Blundell 10-11-7 — D Dutton
6 30-40 KUMBI D McCain 8-11-6 — –
7 33-32 CHEBBIE (CD) A Smith 10-11-4 — P Tuck
8 311p SPRING CHANCELLOR (CD) W A Stephenson 8-11-2 — K Jones
9 2241 SWIFT ALBANY (D) R Robinson 9-10-11 — Mandy Harrison 7
10 0203 SNOW BLESSED Denys Smith 6-10-11 — J O'Neill
11 40u0 REAY'S SONG (D) M Naughton 9-10-10 — G Bradley
13 4424 RONAN-PAUL (B) S Leadbetter 10-10-0 — A Brown
14 1/3p0 ROYAL SUNSET Lady C Renwick 8-10-0 — –

2 Dusky Duke, 4 Chebbie, 5 Snow Blessed, 13-2 Magic Tipp, 9 Swift Albany, 10 Ronan Paul, 18 others.

2.15 NORTHUMBRIA CHASE (novices: £2,110: 3m) (12)

1 3p0-1 BALLY-GO (D) M W Easterby 8-11-5 — P Tuck
4 3111 RUN 'N FLY (CD) A Mactaggart 8-11-3 — C Pimlott
6 30f0 BAWNEEN Lady C Renwick 9-11-0 — Mr T Reed 7
7 f-app BIRTLEY BOY (B) Mrs J Gledson 7-11-0 — –
8 f/10f BOSTON BOY R D Woodhouse 6-11-0 — A Wilson 7
12 00p/p INSTANT FREEZE B McLean 6-11-0 — G W Gray
13 010/p JARABINDA W A Stephenson 7-11-0 — R Lamb
16 p0 OLLETSOC W A Stephenson 5-11-0 — K Jones 4
17 f2/f SAM WREKIN C Bell 5-11-0 — –
18 2-312 YOUNG ASH LINN R McDonald 7-11-0 — A Brown
19 00p4 SOLDIER'S DREAM W Fairgrieve 5-10-9 — M Barnes
20 0/00-u SUNSET SURPRISE Mrs G Reveley 8-10-9 — G Bradley

11-8 Bally-Go, 2 Run 'N Fly, 9-2 Young Ash Lin, 8 Sunset Surprise, 14 Bawneen, 20 others.

2.45 PHEASANT HURDLE (handicap: £968: 2m 4f) (9)

5 22-p0 SQUIRES CLOSE (C) N Crump 5-11-7 — C Hawkins
7 0003 BAVAL (D) D Yeoman 8-11-2 — J O'Neill
9 4021 EBORACUM (D) B Wilkinson 5-10-13 (5 ex) — S Charlton
10 02f2/ BORDER KNIGHT (C) J Haldane 8-10-10 — G Bradley
14 104/0 SINGALONG SAM F Watson 6-10-7 — –
16 2140 STAR REGAL (D) M Naughton 4-10-3 — M Dwyer
17 413-1 THE DIVIDER Mrs T Calder 5-10-3 — R Lamb
19 0/000 MEASURE UP J Blundell 7-10-0 — D Dutton
20 0200 LADY LAWYER J Brockbank 5-10-0 — B Storey 4

9-4 Eboracum, 3 The Divider, 4 Star Regal, 11-2 Baval, 9 Lady Lawyer, 14 others.

3.15 PARTRIDGE HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £699: 2m 120yd) (14)

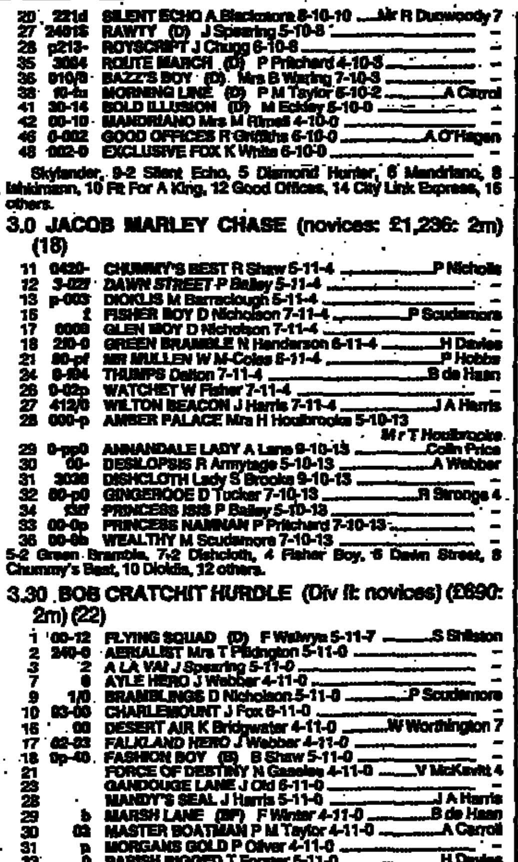
1 1 TARISTEAC G Lockerbie 11-1 — J Berkeley 7
2 103 VALOROSO J Kettlewell 11-1 — S Kettlewell 4
3 0 BUSORM M H Easterby 10-10 — A Brown
5 2 ELGENDON M H Easterby 10-10 — Mr T Easterby
6 0 HAPPY SEASON J FitzGerald 10-10 — R O'Leary
7 00 HARBOUR MUSIC (B) T Craig 10-10 — M Ennis
8 0004 JOHN NORTH N Chamberlain 10-10 — B Storey 4
9 2p40 MOUNT RULE D Yeoman 10-10 — K Jones 4
11 2 PACIFISTE (BF) M W Dickinson 10-10 — R Earnshaw
12 00 PRINCE CONCORDE E Carter 10-10 — P A Charlton
15 342u TOT Denys Smith 10-10 — G Bradley
16 GOLDEN FAME J Haldane 10-5 — R Lamb
17 LOCH LOUSSE M W Easterby 10-5 — P Tuck
18 04 RIBBONS OF BLUE (BF) J Watts 10-5 — J O'Neill

8-13 Pacifiste, 9-2 Elgendon, 8 Ribbons Of Blue, 14 Valoroso, Happy Season, 16 Busorm, 20 others.

Newcastle selections

By Michael Seely

12.45 Jobroke. 1.15 Tumble Jim. 1.45 Dusky Duke. 2.15 Bally-Go. 2.45 Eboracum. 3.15 Pacifiste.



Results from four meetings

Chepstow

Going: Soft

12.40 NEWSBOY CHASE (£1,878 2m 4f)

DINGBAT b g by space King – Preston Guild (A Boyce) 7-11-4 — K Mooney (9-2) 1
Greenwood Lad — M Perrett (4-1) 2
Nickie Moppett — G McCourt (12-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.20. Places: £1.30, £1.70, £3.00. DF: £17.90. CSF: £20.31. Tricast: £177.52. J Wright at Bromyard. 20l, 5l. Lord Leighton (7-2 fav). Golden Trix (25-1) 4th. 11 ran.

1.10 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (novices: £2,715: 2m)

WYFORD ch g by Emberr – All Blarney (Mrs D Joyce) 6-11-0 — R Rowe (14-1) 1
Kadalian — M Bastard (9-1) 2
King's Jug — S Morshead (21-20 fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £14.70. Places: £2.70, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £33.20. CSF: £130.78. V Bishop at Hay-on-Wye. Sh hd, 12l. Crumbs (16-1) 4th. 24 ran. NR: Toreide.

1.45 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL CHASE (handicap: £20,003: 3m 6f)

BURROUGH HILL LAD b g by Richboy – Green Monkey (R Riley) 7-10-9 — J Francome (100-30 fav) 1
Royal Judgement — R Rowe (25-1) 2
Lucky Vane — J Burke (6-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.70. Places: £2.20, £5.40, £1.40, £2.60. DF: £75.50. CSF: £73.74. Tricast: £383.47. J Pitman at Lambourn. 4l, 3l. Mid Day Gun (20-1) 4th. 18 ran. NR: Roman Bistro, Acrow Lad.

2.20 FINALE HURDLE (3-y-o: Grade II: £5,928: 2m)

DODGY FUTURE b c, by Nebbiolo – Taking Silk (D Lowe), 11-0 — M Perrett (2-1) 1
Easter Lee — J H Davies (7-4 fav) 2
Armonit — G Davies (50-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £3.00. Places: £1.60, £1.30, £21.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £8.13. S Mellor, at Lambourn. 1½l, 1½l. Burgos (33-1) 4th. 14 ran.

2.50 SCOUT CHASE (4-y-o: Novices: £1,309: 2m)

THE GANGER MAN b g, by Crash Course – Black Goat (P Trant Ltd) 10-8 — J H Davies (4-1) 1
Crack A Joke — S Morshead (4-1) 2
B Jaski — P Barton (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.20. Places: £1.00, £1.80, £2.40. DF: £9.90. CSF: £20.78. D Elsworth, at Whitsbury. 1½l, 12l. Golden Knoll (6-4 fav) 4th. 8 ran.

3.20 KINGSBRIDGE HURDLE (handicap: £1374: [illegible])

WALLY W[illegible] (E Pra[illegible]) [illegible]
Bowden [illegible]
Noble Pa[illegible]

TOTE: [illegible] £5.40, [illegible] TRICAST: [illegible] Eusebio [illegible] ran.

PLACEPOT: £27.50.

(3.15) EGHAM HURDLE 3-y-o: Novices: £690: 2m 4f)

CHILDOWN b c by Sadair – Swooneon Gal 10-8 — H Davies (7-1) 1
Amrullah — R Rowell (8-1) 2
Tom Sharp — S Keightley (3-1 fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £8.50. Places: £3.40, £3.60, £1.70. DF: £30.40. CSF: £71.46. N Henderson at Lambourn. 3l, 8l. Woolscowers (12-1) 4th. 21 ran. NR: Paddy O'Malley. TOTE DOUBLE: £148.50. TREBLE: £76.80. JACKPOT: Not won. PLACEPOT: £7.40.

Wetherby

Going: Good to Soft

12.30 BRADFORD HURDLE (Div 1: novices: £690: 2m)

KARENOMORE b g by Karabas – Leomar (Lt. Col. R. Warden) 5-10-12 — Mr T. Easterby (11-10 fav) 1
Sean de Visol — D. Dutton (9-2) 2
Price of Peace — M. Dwyer (16-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.60. Places: £1.40, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £7.47. CSF: £7.47. M. H. Easterby at Great Habton. 6l, 4l. Sir Rob (50-1) 4th. 15 ran.

1.0 ST JOHN AMBULANCE CHASE (Novices: £2,008: 2m 50yd)

B AND K EMPEROR ro g by Young Emperor – Fiery Clare (B & K Motors Ltd) 6-10-10 — Mr R. Beggan (11-8 fav) 1
Norton Cross — A Brown (5-2) 2
Thelmas Secret — M Barnes (12-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.40. Places: £1.30, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £2.40. CSF: £5.28. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. ½l, ¾l. Cornering (100-30) 4th. 9 ran.

1.35 KNARESBOROUGH HURDLE (Handicap: £3,960: 3m)

MOSSMORRAN b g by Kinglet – Black Print (D. Armstrong) 4-11-0 — G. Bradley (100-30 fav) 1
Chetel — C. Pimlott (11-1) 2
The Last Prince — J. J. O'Neill (4-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £4.70. Places: £2.10, £2.60, £1.50. £9.90. DF: £82.40. CSF: £44.11. TRICAST: £153.02. A. Scott at Wooperton. 5l, 3l. Camden (25-1) 4th. 17 ran.

2.10 LONG MARSTON HURDLE (Handicap: £2,287: 2m)

VOOLIN ch f by Jimmy Reppin – Freuchie (Lord Cadogan) 4-10-2 — C Hawkins (9-2) 1
Rivers Edge — J Murphy (14-1) 2
Adam Craig — M Dwyer (10-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £4.80. Places: £1.50, £2.70, [illegible]

[illegible] £76.18. M H Easterby at Great Habton. 4l, 8l. Righthand Man (9-2) 4th. 11 ran.

3.15 BRADFORD HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £690: 2m)

BROWNE'S GAZETTE b g by London Gazette – Austrian Girl (D Browne) 5-10-13 — Mr D Browne (10-11 fav) 1
Scarlet Terrier — C Pimlott (12-1) 2
Wellideour — M Dwyer (16-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £1.90. Places: £1.40, £2.10, £2.40. DF: £10.90. CSF: £15.69. M Dickinson at Harewood. 12l, 3l. Bettabet Geraghty (16-1) 4th. 17 ran.

PLACEPOT: £96.65.

Kempton

Going: Good to firm

12.45 KENNINGTON CHASE (Novices: £1,814: 2m).

RIVER RHEIN b g by Rheingold – Princess Camilla 6-10-12 — Mr G Murnagh (7-1) 1
Warner For Leisure — R Earnshaw (8-1 Jt Fav) 2
Brave Hussar — P Nicholls (8-1 Jt Fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.70. Places: £1.70, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £10.40. CSF: £25.85. J Webber at Banbury. 2½l, 2½l. Cross Master (66-1) 4th. 16 ran.

1.15 LADBROKE HURDLE (Handicap: £2,351: 2m).

GROCKLE br g by Copsale – Royal Revenge 6-11-1 — H Davies (6-1) 1
Goldyke — E Waite (10-1) 2
Faithful Don — R Linley (14-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.60. Places: £1.90, £3.30, £2.70. DF: £22.20. CSF: £83.48. Tricast: £755.08. B Barons at Kingsbridge. 3l, 3l. Border Sun (14-1) 4th. Destiny Bay (11-4 fav). 13 ran.

1.45 LADBROKE CHASE (Handicap: £4,854: 2m 4f).

THE TSAREVICH b g by Mummy's Pet – Madame Russe 7-11-9 — Mr J White (5-2) 1
Western Sunset — H Davies (9-4) 2
Pretty Hopeful — P Nicholls (4-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.70. Places: £1.70, £1.80. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.98. N Henderson at Lambourn. 7l, 5l. Spinning Saint (33-1) 4th. 6 ran. NR: Tom's Little A1.

2.15 FELTHAM CHASE (Novices: Grade II. £6,861: 3m)

DUKE OF MILAN br g by Milan – Smart Answer 6-11-4 — P Scudamore (9-4) 1
A Kinsman — T G Dunn (13-8 fav) 2
Irish Glors — H Davies (9-4) 3

TOTE: Win: £3.10. Places: £1.50, £1.50. DF: £2.50. CSF: £8.07. N Gaselee at Lambourn. 2½l, 30l. Rogdaler (25-1) 4th. 6 ran. NR: Mella.

2.45 AVENUE CHASE (£2,169: 2m)

JUGADOR br g by Jaeja – Janetta 8-11-5 — P Scudamore (6-1) 1
Fearless Imp — C Bell (1-2 fav) 2
Young Dusky — Mr O Sherwood (100-30) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.00. Places: £2.00, £1.00. DF: £2.50. CSF: £9.45. P Hayes at Chichester. Sh hd, 4l. Still Hope (14-1) 4th. 5 ran. Fearless Imp fin 1st disq plcd 2nd, Jugador fin 2nd awrd race.

Wolverhampton

1.0: 1, Santella King (evens fav); 2, Master Silca Key (10-1); 3, Invincible Shadow (11-4). 13 ran. NR: Arrowood Junction, Highland Gold, Royal Brave, Spot The Patch.
1.30: Ledbury Lad (6-1); 2, Slave Bracken (5-2 fav); 3, Forest Lodge (25-1). 9 ran. NR: Unsung, Royal Bishop.
2.0: Tusla's Lad (4-1); 2, Barryville (7-4 fav); 3, Lauraneum (4-1). 8 ran.
2.30: West Tip (2-5 fav); 2, Royal Normen (8-1); 3, Colsdinn (5-1). 6 ran. NR: Bee Sting, Speedy Bee, The Welder.
3.0: Nimble Dove (10-1); 2, Ever-So-Sure (9-2); 3, The Corinthian (50-1); 4, Dropshot (9-4). 19. ran. NR: Maercus Agrippa.
3.30: 1, Star of Screen (14-1); 2, Grundy Glow (25-1); 3, Lochboisdale (12-1). 17 ran. Triple Jump (4-5 fav).

● Dingbat, 20-length winner of the Newsboy Handicap Chase at Chepstow yesterday, will make a quick reappearance under a penalty next week, either at Newbury or Cheltenham.

● Killing Time had to be put down after falling at the first fence in the Kennington Novices' Chase at Kempton yesterday.

● Mr Leslie Wolstenholme, a spectator, was taken to St Fames's Hospital in Leeds after being kicked by Crackhill in the pre-parade ring before the Long Marston Handicap Hurdle at Wetherby, yesterday.

Holmes points to a future without manager Don King.

Initials denote a confusion of champions

Holmes can stir up this murky alphabet soup

New York (NYT) – In recent years boxing champions have been identified as if they were physicians or scholars, with initials resembling degrees. For five years and a half Larry Holms was the heavyweight champion, WBC, as in World Boxing Council, not to be confused with WBA, as in World Boxing Association. But now he is Larry Holmes, heavyweight champion, IBF, as in International Boxing Federation, a new group of American boxing politicians struggling for stature.

Not that Holmes needs any initals. With his record of 45 wins (32 knockouts) and no defeats he has earned acceptance by the boxing public as the only heavyweight champion. But in changing political parties, so to speak, Holmes has emerged as a free agent.

No longer obligated to the promoter, Don King, who has long been aligned with the WBC legislators, Holmes is free to talk to any promoter. He is also free to promote his own bouts, notably a showdown with Gerrie Coetzee, of South Africa, the WBA tile holder.

Reluctant

"I just want to be free," Holmes said recently. "I don't want a promoter telling me what to do."

Holmes wants to tell promoters what to do instead. But he no longer wants to work with Don King, and he is reluctant to work with Bob Arum, who deals mostly with WBA bouts. In speaking of the possibility of promoting the Coetzee bout himself, along with others, he mentioned "selling my rights" for a $30m guarantee.

Because of Holmes's new freedom, Madison Square Garden, New York is being considered as the site of the Holmes-Coetzee bout, probably in June. Holmes has been offered an estimated $25m (£16.5m) to meet Coetzee, a meeting which he would co-promote. Holmes's new promotional firm arranged the world-wide television bonanza for the bout, according to John Condon, the boxing president of the Garden. Holmes has been offered 40 per cent of the Garden's live gate, potentially about $1m in return for holding the bout, the Garden would retain 60 per cent of the live gate, potentially about $1.5m.

There was also talk at one stage of the bout being held at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands, New York. Yet to be heard from is Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, the site of virtually all the big-money title bouts in recent years.

What is settled is Holmes's determination to be his own man. His new IBF initials seem to stand for "I've Broken Free" from Don King, who once managed him early in his career and who, as a promoter, remained as his manager for all practical purposes.

According to Holmes, he received only $4.5m for his 13th-round knockout of Gerry Cooney in their 1982 title bout, which King, Tiffany Productions and Caesars Palace promoted. Holmes believes that Cooney received about $9.5m.

"Cooney got more than I did, a lot more," Holmes said.

Holmes also felt short-changed when he agreed to defend his WBC title against Greg Page, of Louisville, now the No.1 contender in the WBC rankings, for $2.5m sometime in February or March.

"I know I could get maybe £5m for Page, but I signed an agreement and I was struck," he said. "I had to take the $2.5m or go to court.

Instead, at the WBC convention in Las Vagas earlier this month, Holmes resigned as its champion, immediately recognized by the new IBF as its champion, he is now talking about defending the IBF title against John Tate, briefly the WBA champion, but no longer a respected contender.

Eventually, of course, Holmes hopes to unify the heavyweight title. He could do that by dethroning Gerrie Coetzee as the WBA champion, then dethroning either Greg Page or Tim Witherspoon, who have been selected by the WBA to duel for its vacated title.

"That's why I want to fight Coetzee in June, no later," Holmes said. "I can't wait for him. I'm getting old. I realize what everbody wants me to do – get old. Holmes is 34, not elderly yet, but certainly not young.

Champions

In all the boxing divisions now, there are only two undisputed champions, meaning those recognized by both the WBC and WBA, only two champions who don't require initials after their names – Marvelous Marvin Hagler, the middleweight champion, Michael Spinks, the light-heavyweight champion.

One of boxing's problems is its different champions in so many divisions – usually one for the WBC and Don King, one for the WBA and Bob Arum.

With so many champions, the television networks always can advertise a title fight. But jnow that Larry Holmes is free, perhaps he can eliminate all those initials, all that murky alphabet soup that now has produced the current confusion of three heavyweight champions. In one world, each division should have only one world champion.

Spartan fare for bantams



Feeney: third time lucky?

Campobasso, Italy (Reuter) – Festive treats have been denied Walter Giorgetti, of Italy, and John Feeney, the British challenger, who contest the European bantamweight championship here today.

"I have been careful in what I ate and had to refuse all the delicious things my mother knows how to make," Giorgetti a 26 year old bachelor who holds the title, said.

Denny Mancini, Feeney's manager, said his charge had been following a similarly spartan regime during the build-up to his third attempt at the European title. The British champion, aged 25, will be hoping it will be a case of third time lucky in an Italian ring.

In June, 1981, he lost on points to Valerio Nati, and a year later was outpointed again, this time by Guiseppe Fossati, from whom Giorgetti took the title six months ago.

Feeney said he had been counting on meeting Fossati again and had found out only recently that the title had passed to Giorgetti, about whom he admitted knowing "frankly nothing".

Giorgetti, who has won 14 of his 16 professional contests, will be making his second defence of the title since he outpointed Fossati. In September he defeated Ignacio Martinez Antunez, of Spain, when the referee stopped the bout in the seventh round because of a cut over the spaniard's eye. Today's contest will be over 12 rounds.

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. . . **PRAISE THE LORD**, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Isaiah 12: 4.

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SOLOMON.–On Dec. 15 at Cuckfield Hospital to Anita (nee Jeffray) and Charles a son James Norris.

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MARRIAGES

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IMS.– Robert William died 28th December 1982. In loving memory. From his devoted wife always. Joan.

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of ITALIA IMPORT & EXPORT COMPANY Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named Company, which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 27th day of January, 1984, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Stephen Daniel Swaden, FCA of 3 4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 16th day of December 1983.

S. D. SWADEN
Liquidator

CONCEPT (PRINTING & STATIONERY) Limited.
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a MEETING of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 3 4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA on Wednesday the 11th day of January 1984 at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 16th day of December 1983.

M C MUTTERS
Director

In the Matter of J. F. PATRICK & SONS (BUILDERS) Limited
By order of the High Court of Justice dated the 17th day of November 1983, Malcolm John London of Shelley House, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7DQ, has been appointed Liquidator of the above named company, with a committee of inspection.
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هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.

6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; today's television previewed at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; Mike Smith's pop news between 7.30 and 8.00; Esther Rantzen's That's Life file between 7.30 and 8.00 and again between 8.30 and 9.00; horoscopes at 8.35.

9.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon. Gremlin and the Dragon plus Royal Wedding. 9.25 Why Don't You ...? Ideas for bored youngsters. 9.50 Wacky Races (r). 10.00 Play Chess! Bill Hartston begins a new series. 10.10 Jackanory. Andrew Burt with part two of The Dangerous Journey (r). 10.25 Paddington goes to Court (r). 10.30 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Iain Lauchlan. 10.55 Hokey Cokey. 11.10 Three Tell Tales. Donald Duck cartoons.

12.00 Look Back With Noakes. John Noakes takes the road to the Isles. 12.30 News After Noon with Frances Coverdale. 12.42 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles). 12.45 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry. 1.00 Bonanza. Ben's double sets up a land swindle.

1.50 Film: Dodge City (1939) starring Errol Flynn as the man who tames the wild west town. Directed by Michael Curtiz. 3.30 The World of Stanley Holloway. His career charted by Alan Jay Lerner.

4.20 Heyyy, It's the King (r). 4.30 Jackanory with Colin Jeavons, Roy Kinnear and Simon Shepherd in part one of James Thurber's tale, The 13 Clocks. 4.45 Gulliver's Travels. An animated cartoon (r). 5.35 Ivor the Engine. Oliver Postgate's steaming hero in Cold Sheep (r).

5.40 News with Frances Coverdale.

5.50 Regional news magazines.

6.00 Film: The Great Escape (1962) starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough. World War Two escape from Stalag Luft North story, based on fact. Lots of stiff upper lips and a spectacular motorbike ride from Steve McQueen. A strong supporting cast includes Charles Bronson, Donald Pleasence and James Coburn. Directed by John Sturges.

8.45 News with John Humphrys.

9.00 The Best of Three of a Kind. Highlights of the award-winning comedy series featuring Lenny Henry, Tracey Ullman and David Copperfield.

9.30 Review '83 presented by Fred Emery and Sue Lawley. The most memorable and sometimes amusing events of the past year. (see choice).

10.50 Phil Silvers* as Sergeant Bilko, the flyest NCO in the United States Army, this week with an allergy (r).

11.15 Men v Women. An international golf challenge played over nine holes of the Duke's Course at Woburn. Tonight Germany's Bernhard Langer plays Sandra Haynie of the United States. The commentator is Peter Alliss.

12.05 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton. The morning papers reviewed at 6.25; news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; exercises at 6.45 and 8.55; Jeni Barnett's pick of the year at 6.40 and 8.33; with a celebrity as he or she visits their home town at 7.45; pop video of the year at 7.53; magic moments at 8.05; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35; and cookery from Michael Barry at 8.45. 9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street in which The Muppets make learning a bit of fun 10.25 Film: Gemini Man (1976). A made for television movie starring Ben Murphy as Sam Casey, an agent for an organization called Intersect, who, after an underwater accident, discovers that he has the ability to become invisible at will. Directed by Alan Levi

12.00 Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets 12.30 Look Who's Talking. Derek Batey with Paul Squire.

1.00 News with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news

1.30 30 Years On. Peter Alliss looks back to the year 1953 – a memorable year by any standards with the Queen's coronation, the conquest of Everest and the winning of the Ashes by England for the first time in 20 years (r) 2.30 A Country Practice.

3.30 Film: The Thief of Baghdad (1978) starring Roddy McDowell, Peter Ustinov and Terence Stamp. The Arabian Night's story about the good and kindly but penniless Prince Taj who enlists the help of a thief in a race with the wicked and wily Wazir for the hand of the Caliph's daughter, Princess Yasmina. Directed by Clive Donner

5.15 Benji at Marineland. The crafty canine tries to scuba-dive and wins the heart of Afghans

5.45 News 6.00 Thames news

6.35 Crossroads. Glenda Banks begins to get labour pains at the Christmas party.

7.00 Name That Tune. Fast moving musical quiz compered by Tom O'Connor

7.30 Coronation Street. Rita receives a visit from the mystery woman who tells her about her relationship with Rita's late husband

8.00 Jim Davidson's Special. Variety show presented by the Cockney comedian.

9.00 Chessgame. The final part of the spy mystery and Dr Audley and his team research the background of two Oxford students – one of whom has recently met a violent death. Their investigations lead to a surprising encounter by Hadrian's Wall. Starring Terence Stamp

10.00 News

10.15 Film: Carrie (1976) starring Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie and John Travolta. A really gory tale of a Plain Jane high-school girl – despised by her fellow pupils and sexually suppressed by her mother – who discovers she has the facility of telekenisis, the ability to move things at a distance without touching them. The fainthearted should be warned about the gruesome ending. Directed by Brian de Palma

12.10 Night Thoughts from Max Sinclair

Virginia McKenna in The Case of the Frightened Lady: BBC 2 8.15pm

CHOICE

● Edgar Wallace's classic stage play, THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY (BBC 2 8.15pm) has been faithfully adapted for television by Victor Pemberton. Starring Virginia McKenna and Tim Woodward, the play is set in the sumptuous Sussex seat of the Lebanon's, an eccentric family whose origins date back a thousand years. Virginia McKenna is a superb Lady Lebanon – autocratic and proud, wracked with guilt and secrets. When her ineffectual son's chauffeur is strangled Lady Lebanon and her servants close ranks to try and thwart the boys in blue led by the aggressively amusing Superintendent Tanner, played by William Maxwell. The 'frightened lady' is Ailsa (Elizabeth Garvie), the reluctant fiancée of Lady Lebanon's son. *Wide-eyed and white as a sheet, a sleep-walker in fear of her life she is the person Lady Lebanon is relying on to eventually produce an heir to perpetuate the family name. But why is she so frightened?* Director Chris Menaul keeps the pace brisk without losing any of the suspense

● One of Lakeland's best-known voices, Melvyn Bragg, tonight begins a three-part series to be transmitted on consecutive nights, LAND OF THE LAKES (Channel 4 10.00pm) an obvious labour of love for Mr Bragg and a series that is sure to appeal to the many millions of tourists who are drawn to the 900 square mile area every year. Tonight's programme deals with the history of the formation of the area – *both by Nature and by man* – and with the help of experts and wonderful aerial photography Mr Bragg manages to capture the essence of the rugged and breath-takingly beautiful district

● If the erudite but adenoidal utterings of Mr Bragg are not to your taste there is a well-modulated alternative, REVIEW OF THE YEAR (BBC1 9.30pm) in which Panorama's Fred Emery and Sue Lawley of Nine O'Clock News fame recall a number of the year's momentous events both serious and silly.

BBC 2

1.40 Film Presenting Lily Mars* (1943) starring Judy Garland and Van Heflin. The first showing on British television of this lighthearted musical comedy about a small-time girl who wants to become a Hollywood actress. With the Tommy Dorsey and Bob Crosby bands. Directed by Norman Taurog

3.20 Machines in Motion. Gathering Momentum is the title of the second lecture for young people given by Professor Leonard Maunder on the subjects of why and how things move

4.20 A Walton Special. The last of the three films based on the characters of the Walton's television series. It is now 1947, a few days before Thanksgiving. The boys are safely back from the war but the family is dispirited about the many other men that have not survived. To shake them out of their maudlin state it is time for the Thanksgiving dinner. Elizabeth takes matters into her own hands

5.55 News summary with subtitles

6.00 World Snooker: The Year of the 147. Highlights from the memorable Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship, a tournament that saw Canadian Cliff Thorburn score the first maximum break in the Championship and Steve Davis become the first player to win the title twice

8.15 Play: The Case of the Frightened Lady, by Edgar Wallace, adapted for television by Victor Pemberton. The mysterious murder of Lord Lebanon's young chauffeur brings Scotland Yard's Detective Chief Superintendent Tanner and his assistant Sergeant Totty, to investigate. Lord Lebanon, an eccentric young man, dominated by his mother, is due to marry Aisla, a lady who sleepwalks and is in constant fear of death. Why should this be? With Virginia McKenna, Warren Clarke and Tim Woodward. The director is Chris Menaul (see choice).

9.30 Film: Funeral in Berlin (1966) starring Michael Caine as Harry Palmer in the second of Len Deighton's spy thrillers. This time Harry is commissioned to bring over from East Berlin a colonel in the Russian intelligence who has made overtures to the West about defecting. Is he bluffing? Harry has to find out. Directed by Guy Hamilton

11.10 News with John Humphrys

11.15 Film: Horse Feathers* (1932) starring the Marx Brothers. Groucho becomes the head of a college. To bolster the football team he signs what he thinks are two ace players. Instead, he finds he has a prohibition breaker and a dog catcher. Directed by Norman McLeod. Ends at 12.25.

CHANNEL 4

12.30 Animated Fables. Three offerings chosen by Antoinette Moses, director of the Cambridge Animation Festival. From the United States, Arrow to the Sun; from Trinidad, Kuumba; and from Britain, Mr Pascal

1.00 Musicians. A documentary about the Sri Lankan brothers, Rohan and Druvi de Saram; one a classical cellist, the other a pianist.

2.00 World Badminton Championships 1983. The men's singles final between Liem Swie King and Icuk Sugiarto, both from Indonesia – a game that was hailed as a classic by badminton buffs

3.00 Film: Take Me Out to the Ball Game, (1949) starring Gene Kelly. A Busby Berkeley musical, released in Britain under the title Everybody's Cheering, about a couple of music hall troupers who spend their summers playing for a baseball team. Their egos are dented when they learn that the team that they play for has been taken over by a woman. Co-starring Frank Sinatra, Esther Williams and Jules Munshin

4.45 Film: Victoria the Great* (1937) starring Anna Neagle as the queen with Anton Walbrook as her consort, Albert. A straightforward biography of the longest reigning monarch that ran for more than a year in London and won an award at the Venice Film Festival. Directed by Herbert Wilcox

7.00 Channel Four News. Norman St John Stevas with a personal review of the year

7.30 Priestland Right and Wrong. In the fifth of his six-programme series Gerald Priestland turns to the countryside. His is an unfashionable view of environmentalism and animal rights and he believes that townspeople have an over-romantic view of the countryside and that they are wrong to think that they *can go "back to nature"*

8.00 Brookside. It's New Year's Eve and party-time in the Close where the Jackson's festivities spill out on to the pavement

8.35 What the Dickens! by Heathcote Williams. A Victorian entertainment set in Dickens's Devonshire Terrace house and based on Dickens's love of conjuring.

10.00 Land of the Lakes. The first of three programmes in which Melvyn Bragg talks about and explores the area of his birthplace. In this programme he traces the area's 600 million year history

10.55 Film: Think Fast, Mr Moto* (1937) starring Peter Lorre. The Japanese detective foils a gang of smugglers aboard a ship sailing from San Francisco to Shanghai. Directed by Norman Foster

12.10 Closedown

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News Briefing.
6.35 Daybreak with Charles Colvile. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News Summary.
7.30 Today, including 7.30 News Summary. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.00 Today's News. 8.25 Sport.
8.30 *Quote ... Unquote. Nigel Rees* is again in the chair, and today's panel consists of Celia Haddon, Ludovic Kennedy, Colin Welland, and Dr John Rae (r). 8.59 Travel; Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Tom Keating, the painter a picture restorer talks to Roy Plomley.†
10.00 News; Travel; Points of Departure. Christopher Matthew visits Liverpool.
10.15 Crotal and White. Finlay J. Macdonald continues his story of a boyhood in the Hebrides (3).
10.30 Morning Story: 'The Surprise' by Nancy Dallen Sinkler. Read by Errol Mackinnon.
10.45 Joy to the World. The Message of the Christ Child. Christmas words and music.
11.00 News; Lorna Doone by R.D. Blackmore (3). (r)
12.00 News; You are Mr Lobby *Lud ... The true story of a* mysterious midsummer manhunt on August Bank Holiday, 1927. The story-teller is Miles Kington. And we also hear the voice of the man involved in the newspaper stunt, Mr W. T. Chinn, the original Mr Lobby Lud (r).
12.30 Just A Minute.†12.55 Weather; Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.35 *A Party Political Broadcast (by the Liberal Party).*
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 Twins. Jocelyn Ryder-Smith investigates the fact and fiction *about the special relationship of* twins.
2.45 Bolshoi Tyshinsky No 26 (2): Everything in the Garden ... The story of Bill Campbell (Vili the Clown).
3.00 *News; Afternoon* Theatre. 'The Cinderella Connection' by Sarah Maxwell. A version of the Cinderella story, set in a rundown Brooklyn house with a ballroom, and starring Harry Towb, Miriam Margolyes, Blain Fairman, Norma Ronald, Helen Horton, Peter Marinker, Peter Whitman and Sarah Maxwell. With Richard Homes (piano) and Pat Halling (violin).†
4.00 *Down Your Way.* A look back on the past year's programmes.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame (5). Read by Bernard Cribbins.
5.00 News Magazine.
5.35 Elkins in Israel. In the third of six talks Michael Elkins talks about the history of modern Israel: War *and the New Society.* 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.15 The Best of Maigret. A selection of plays from the series Simenon's Maigret. Tonight: Maigret in Society. With Maurice Denham as Maigret and Michael Gough as Simenon (r).
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 After Dinner Sport. Dinner – and *discussion* – of sporting memories of 1983. With Peter de Savary, Hugh McIlvanney and Robin Marlar.
8.00 Coward at Christmas. 'Hay Fever' by Noel Coward. With Peggy Ashcroft, Tony Britton and Millicent Martin, Julia Foster and Maurice Denham (r).
9.30 Kaleidoscope. An extended interview with the American screen actress Shirley MacLaine. *The interviewer is* Michael Billington. 9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.30 Conversations with Domingo. The great Spanish tenor talks to Daniel Snowman in the first of two programmes. Tonight, he talks about what he considers to be the ideal opera for a newcomer to tackle – La Bohème. He also explains the way he approaches the major roles he plays. Snowman interviewed the singer earlier this year in Andalusia where he was filming Bizet's opera Carmen.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: 'The Poison Belt' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (3). The reader is Peter Pacey.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Son of Cliche.†
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15-Close Shipping Forecast.

England: VHF As above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. *Coleridge-Taylor (A Christmas Overture, Op 7),* Weber (Andante and Hungarian Rondo, Op 35). Malcolm Williamson (cantata: The World at the Manger). Leopold Mozart (Toy *Symphony*)†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Vivaldi (Concerto for two trumpets and orchestra RV 537). Mozart (Fantasia in F minor, K 608 – Daniel Chorzempa, organ), Walton (Variations on a theme by Hindemith). Strauss (Die heiligen drei Könige: with Schwarzkopf and Berlin Radio SO)†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Respighi. Della Silvana (Robert Tear and orch), Bella porta di rubini: E se un giorno tornasse: with Elsa Respighi, mezzo). Sonata in B minor; and Stornellatrice (Gedda and Gerald Moore)†
10.00 Andor Foldes Plays Beethoven: Sonata in F minor, Op 2 No 1; Six Bagatelles, Op 126; Sonata in G major, Op 14 No 2†
10.50 English Chamber Orchestra: with Ann Murray (mezzo). Locatelli's Introduzione Teatrale in D, Op 4 No 5, Scarlatti's Motet: Jam sole Clarior, Handel's Concerto Grosso in F, Op 6 No 9, and, at 11.30, *Handel's cantata O Numi eterni:* Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 6 No 6†
12.10 Strauss: Wind Ensemble of Scottish Chamber Orch play the Symphony No 2†
1.00 News.
1.05 Jazz Greats: Miles Kington with records of the Scots clarinettist Sandy Brown†
1.30 Matinee Musicale: BBC Concert Orch with John Williams (guitar). Ernest Tomlinson's Concert Jig. Elgar's Mina, Marcello arr Williams's Concerto in C minor (first performance in this version). Glinka's Kamarinskaia, Granados's Intermezzo (Goyescas), Barrios's Two Waltzes; (El ultimo cancion), and Smetana's Polka: Furiant (Dance of the Comedians)†
2.30 Delmé String Quartet: Haydn's String Quartet, Op 20 No 5, McCabe's String Quartet No 4 (1st performance) and, at 3.20 Schubert's String Quartet, D 804†
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Portsmouth Cathedral. With Anthony Froggatt, organist†
4.55 News.
5.00 Orchestras on their Home Ground: Today – Germany and Austria. Wagner's Prelude to Act 1 (Lohengrin) – Vienna Phil; Strauss's Symphonic Poem Don Juan – Dresden State Orch; Schoenberg's Verklärte Nacht, Op 4 – Berlin Phil; Webern's Passacaglia Op 1 – Berlin Phil *and Strauss's The Blue Danube* – Vienna SO†
6.30 Julius Patzak: the Viennese tenor on records in a Lieder recital. Works by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Strauss, and Mahler (Der Trunkene im Fruhling from Das Lied von der Erde)†
7.00 Brahms: Sonata in A, Op 100 for violin and piano, and Sonata in E flat, Op 120 No 2, for viola and piano – with Pinchas Zukerman (violin and viola) and Marc Neikrug (piano). Part one†
7.45 Cameraritles: Michael Horden reads this sixth, and final, *vignette by Colin McLaren* – Sweet Sinning in the Choir.
7.55 Brahms: part two. Sonata in D minor, Op 108 for violin and piano†
8.25 Six Continents: foreign radio broadcasts *monitored by the* BBC.
8.45 Bliss and Bartok: Bliss's Music for Strings; and Bartok's Concerto for orchestra, played by BBC SO†
9.55 Elliott Carter: Charles Rosen plays the Sonata (1945-6) and the Night Fantasies (1980)†
11.00 The Complete Webern: Three Songs, Op 23. Piano Sonata Movement, Op post. 1906. With Phyllis Bryn-Julson (soprano) and John Constable (piano)†
11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00 and 9.00pm. Major bulletins 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm, 5.00 and 12 midnight. Headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30am (MF/MW). 5.00am Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00pm Music While You Work with *Bryan Smith and his Orchestra.*† 12.30 John Craven.†2.02 Sports Desk. 2.30 Ed Stewart calls Ian Thompson in Radio New Zealand to exchange music and messages for long distance friends and relatives.†3.02 Sports Desk. 4.00 David Hamilton.†4.02, 5.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn.†incl. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only) 7.30 Romantic Strings with Robert Mandell † 8.15 Listen to the Band with Charlie Chester.† 9.0 The Organist Entertains with Nigel Ogden.† 9.30 Hubert Gregg says *Thanks* for the Memory.†9.57 Sports Desk. 10.00 Pick of the Sporting Year. 11.00 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from 12.00 midnight). 1.00am Folk on 2.† 2.00-5.00 Charles Nove presents You and the *Night and the Music.*†

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 9.30 pm and then 12.00 midnight (MF/MW) 6.00am Adrian John 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Simon Bates 11.30 Mike Smith, incl 12.30 Newsbeat 2.00 Steve Wright 4.30 Peter Powell incl *5.30 Newsbeat* 7.00 David Jensen 10.00-12.00 John Peel's Festive 50 Listeners' top 50 tracks (nos 20-11) †VHF Radios 1 and 2 5.00am With Radio 2 10.00pm With Radio 1 12.00-5.00 with Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30 Kings of Jazz 7.45 Report on Religion 8.00 World News 8.09 Reflections. *8.15 Peebles Choice* 8.30 *Two* Cheers for 1983 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Interlude. 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 Caught in the Act. 10.15 Breakthrough 10.30 A Closer Look. 10.50 Recording of the Week 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain *11.15 Something to Show You* 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours 1.30 At Home With... 1.45 Two Hundred Years of Piano Playing. 2.15 Report on Religion 2.30 Two Cheers for 1983. 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 David Munrow 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Rock Salad 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News 5.09 Monitor 5.25 New Ideas. 8.00 World News 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours 8.15 Short Story 8.30 Jazz for the Asking. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Something to Show You 11.30 Top Twenty 12.00 World News 12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Monitor 12.45 Viennese Nights 1.00 *David Munrow. 1.15 Outlook: News Summary* 1.45 Anna of the Five Towns. 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Interview with the Reith Lecturers 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 London Concert Tradition. 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Classical Record Review 5.45 The World Today.
(All times in GMT)

BBC 1 Wales: 12.42-12.45pm News of Wales. 5.50-6.00 Wales Today. 12.05am News of Wales headlines. Close. Scotland: 12.40-12.45pm The Scottish News. 5.50-6.00 The Scottish News. 12.05am Scottish news summary and weather. Close. Northern Ireland: 12.42-12.45pm Northern Ireland news. 5.50-6.00 Northern Ireland news. 12.05am Northern Ireland news headlines and weather. Close. England 5.50-6.00pm London: Cartoon: The Pup's Christmas. All other regions; Regional News. 12.10am Close.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 Little House on the Prairie. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 12.10am Reflection. 12.15 News. 12.20 Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 10.25 am-12.00 Film: "Bless This House. (Sid James). 1.20 pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 2.30-3.30 QED. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 12.10 am Christian Christmas. 12.15 Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

S4C Starts 1.20 pm Fialabalam. 1.35 American football. 3.45 Immigrants. 4.40 Silas Marner. 5.10 Plas Y Dyn Plastig. 5.35 Christmas Supersonic. 6.30 Brookside. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.15 Noson Lawen. 8.20 Y Byd ar Bedwar. 9.20 Great ITV comedy. 11.50 Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.00-12.10 Button Moon. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Metal Mickey. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30-7.00 Winners All. 12.10am Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace* 6.00-6.35 News. 12.10am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales At Six.

TVS As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 Chips. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.10am Company, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 Granada Reports News. 6.30-7.00 This Is Your Right Awards. 12.05am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 *Adventures of the Mouse on Mars.* 2.30 Two of us. 3.00-3.30 Sport Billy. 5.15 Crossroads. 5.40-5.45 News. 6.00 Scotland Today Special. 6.45-7.00 Here Here. 12.10am Late Call. 12.15 Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead. 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.25-6.35 Cartoon. 12.10am News at Bedtime, Closedown.

BORDER As London, except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News 6.00-6.35 Look around. 12.10am News, Closedown.

TSW As London, except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15 Gus Honeybun 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Winners all. 12.10 Postscript, Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 David Frost presents The Guinness Book of Records. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 News. 12.10am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.10am As the Actress Said to the Bishop. Closedown

YORKSHIRE As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 12.10am Barney Miller. 12.40 Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN. † Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Thatcher determined to hold course

Continued from page 1

took over must be translated into votes in those contests if the party is to see off the Alliance and reestablish itself as the unrivalled alternative to the Thatcher Government.

Because he believes the elections will be regarded as a verdict by the electorate on the first year of the Government's second term, Mr Kinnock wants to inspire the interest of party activists and workers in the elections to Strasbourg – something about which they have never been too enthusiastic.

For a party trying to rebuild its popular support there are obvious drawbacks in treating the European elections as a mid-term test, and those are the expected low poll and the tendency among many voters to believe that their best interests in Europe are served by electing members of the Government party.

Mrs Thatcher's fairly buoyant outlook for the next decade was reflected in her new year interview with *Reader's Digest*, in which she looked forward to "an era of enterprise".

For years it had been said that Britain was drifting, that having lost an empire she had not yet found a role, Mrs Thatcher said.

"Well I want the 1980s to be the decade when we get back on course. We have the courage, the compassion and the inventiveness, all the ingredients of great nations. What can hold us back? Only ourselves. We must never again allow state monopoly to replace competition or collectivism to strangle individual endeavour."

She hoped that Britain in the late 1980s would be a society in which substantially better provision could be made for the elderly, the sick and the disabled and in which the state existed for the individual and not the individual for the state, "a place where Britons will find greater scope for their creativity and far higher rewards for their efforts".

Mrs Thatcher said that the country might in some ways "be a chillier, bumpier, less cosy place but infinitely more invigorating".

The Prime Minister's warning of the possibility of a chillier and bumpier way ahead was described yesterday by Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow home secretary, as an admission that she had "swindled" the electorate last June, and that millions had been cheated into voting for her.

Year in which the shy princess blossomed into a royal







Touching gestures: Delighting Chelsea pensioners and New Zealand's Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Ben Cross.



The Princess of Wales's many faces: The glittering royal personage; adoring mother; understanding hospital visitor and a target of fashion editors' criticism.

By Alan Hamilton

It was an unlikely ear, that of the hitherto obscure Prime Minister of Newfoundland, into which the Princess of Wales unloaded her most intimate public thoughts of the year.

"I am finding it very difficult", she admitted, "to cope with the pressures of being Princess of Wales, but I am learning to cope. I have matured a lot recently and got used to coping with things." The hitherto obscure Prime Minister wasted only as much time as it takes to assemble the royal press corps before ensuring that the Princess's confidences were made known to the entire world. It is one of the things she finds difficult to cope with.

Her public would not quibble with her assessment of her progress. During 1983 the Princess had enhanced, and more importantly has survived, her unchallenged position as the media market leader of the planet, her frailties of shyness and temperament merely magnifying the affection felt towards her.

What hastened her maturity was the experience of two overseas tours, to Canada and the Antipodes, on which she learned to live with staring crowds of a quarter of a million at the time. She had to endure an occasional skirmish with what she called the "wolf pack" of the press, but much worse, in both Canada and Australia, the massed bitching of fashion editors who derided her clothes as being far too severe and matronly.

No matter; she actually created new jobs in the British shoe industry during the year as the nation's tall women flocked to follow her example of low heels.

She and the Prince of Wales achieved other, more positive results on their two main foreign tours. Even the Soviet Union and four other communist nations on the organizing committee agreed that the Royal couple were the ideal people to open the World University Games in Edmonton, Alberta. On the same tour, the French Canadian press displayed particular warmth towards them, although their programme delicately avoided any official engagements in Quebec.

In Australia, the reception can have been of no benefit whatsoever to Australia's slow drift towards becoming a Commonwealth republic.

The Princess elicited sympathy from the unlikeliest quarters. Early in the year, when reports of her private lonliness and unhappiness at the role into which she had been cast were rife in the British press, the *Harbin Daily*, a provincial paper in the north-east of the People's Republic of China, paid tribute to the young mother's simplicity and natural charm.

At home, 1983 was the year in which the Princess blossomed into a fully fledged professional royal personage, rather than being a mere decorative junior partner in what her mother-in-law privately refers to as "the firm".

During the year the Princess agreed to become patron of seven new organizations; The Wales Craft Council, Swansea Festival of Music and Arts, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the British Deaf Association, the National Children's Orchestra, London City Ballet, and the youth and junior division of the British Red Cross Society.

She was already patron of the Malcolm Sargeant Cancer Fund for Children, Welsh National Opera, the Royal School for the Blind at Leatherhead, the Pre-School Playgroups Association, and The Albany, a London east end community association.

Her public engagements during the year largely reflected those specific interests. Her diary for 1983 shows that she carried out 76 public engagements, of which 45 were without her husband. Her diary was therefore considerably fuller than in the previous year, when much of her time was taken up with the birth of Prince William.

She has become one of the busiest members of the Royal Family, although her husband was slightly ahead of her in 1983 with 52 public engagements. Among many other duties, the Princess opened six hospitals, a shopping centre and a bridge, was made a Freeman of the Grocers' Company, opened a toy factory in Peterlee, visited a housing estate in Glasgow and a marmalade factory in Dundee, and delighted the Chelsea pensioners with her presence on Founder's Day.

But her forte, which occupied her most and saw her most at ease, was visiting the very young, the very old, and the sick, to whom she brought a touching directness

Although observers continue to fret about her thinness, there is general agreement that the Princess is displaying much greater confidence and measur- ably greater ease in her role

There is no more remarkable evidence of her universal appeal than her appearance during 1983, with her year-old son, on a commemorative stamp issued by the postal authorities of North Korea, a country not hitherto known for its embrace of indefinable ideals of constitutional monarchy.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music

Concert by The Hilliard Ensemble, Randolph Hotel, oxford, 8.

Last chance to see

Work by Alison Britton, new ceramics, Brian Illsley, still life on paper, Michael Rothenstein, new prints, Diana Hobson, pate de verre revived; Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford: 10 to 5 (ends today).

Crafts For Christmas; Leicestershire Guild of Craftsman, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicestershire: 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

New exhibition

Image – last of a series of three exhibitions sponsored by the Arts Council. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 29).

Exhibitions in progress

Harveys History of Wine Collection at the Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster, Mon to Thur 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Fri (until Jan 29).

David Donaldson retrospective, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 28).

Sainsbury's Images for Today: Winners of competition for British artists, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford: Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon (until Jan 8).

Rail Images through the Lens, featuring more than 100 years of photography, Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (until Feb 4).

The Maclaurin Collection – the first exhibition of the Maclaurin collection of Twentieth Century Art, The Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 28).

Home Sweet Home – an exhibition of Victorian Home Life, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Portsmouth, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5.30 (until Jan 26).

Paintings by Peter Sutton, City Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (until Jan 7).

The Thirty Needlewoman; household needlework during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, EM Flint Gallery, Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (until Jan 21).

The Scottish Crafts Collection, a touring exhibition from the Scottish Development Agency, Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 14).

Colouring Metals is a Crafts Council exhibition of work by two contemporary metalworkers, Michael Rowe and Richard Hughes, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 8).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,320

ACROSS

1 Horse one girl gives another (8).
9 Muslin I got in non-soak material (8).
10 A revolutionary transport aid (4).
11 Odd traits include love of essayist – and of philosopher (12).
13 Right about the church being on the rocks? (6).
14 He was associated with Holmes – and the violin, in general (8).
15 Pompous, looking down on others? (7).
16 Earl has disorder in joint, causing disfigurement (7).
20 Mixed drink – preferred cold in Aberdeen, perhaps (4,4).
22 Inclined to be overactive at board meetings? (6).
23 Harsh archaeologist seen on Mississippi, perhaps (5-7).
25 Book for Rugby boys, in short (4).
26 Revolver charged? (8).
27 Established joiner in smart surroundings (8).

DOWN

2 Hals' cheerful subject, for one (8).
3 This may help to immobilise an expiring motorist (12).
4 Merciful treatment for the foreign relative embracing the Pole (8).
5 Article on the drink about to lead France, perhaps (7).
6 Arrangement made Curtis gape (6).
7 French author knocked down? (4).
8 Bound to include need of change, though superficial (4-4)
12 Generous, but might have to be patient? (5-7).
15 Dodge the team walk (4-4).
17 Extremely good article features aromatic plant (8).
18 Vessel a servant upset in the hostelry (8).
19 Lowers dam – seen to crumble (7).
21 Call to make advances, perhaps (6).
24 Always cut head off? (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,319

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Best fiction of 1983

The Literary Editor's selection of novels published this year.

A Coin in Nine Hands, by Marguerite Yourcenar, translated by Dori Katz (Aidan Ellis, £7.95)
Act of Darkness, by Francis King (Hutchinson, £8.50)
Entry into Jerusalem, by Stanley Middleton (Hutchinson £7.50)
Fools of Fortune, by William Trevor (The Bodley Head, £7.50)
Light, by Eva Figes (Hamish Hamilton, £6.95)
Look At Me, by Anita Brookner (Cape, £7.50)
Sebastian, by Lawrence Durrell (Faber, £7.50)
Shame, by Salman Rushdie (Cape, £7.95)
Rates of Exchange, by Malcolm Mason (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)
The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde, by Peter Ackroyd (Hamish Hailton, £7.95)
The Little Drummer Girl, by John Le Carre (Hoder & Stoughton, £8.95)
The Other Side of the Fire, byAlice Thomas Ellis (Duckworth, £7.95)
The Philosopher's Pupil, by Iris Murdoch (Chatto & Windus, £7.95)
The Proprietor, by Ann Schlee (Macmillan, £8.95)
Waterland, by Graham Swift (Heinemann, £7.95)

PH

Rally charges

A new system of charging for the use of Forestry Commission land for motor rallies has been agreed with the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association with effect from January 1.

Under the five-year agreement the charge for commission roads and tracks will be based on the number of miles run, irrespective of the number of starters.

A reduced charge for second and subsequent use of a route in the same rally and for a club event should encourage the staging of dual events, as will the increase in the time allowed for a minor rally from two hours to three hours.

The primary charge will be £110 a mile with a £90 a mile charge for second and subequent use. The previous charge was £1.25 a starter mile.

In recent years the milage length of rally routes on Forestry Commission roads has increased significantly while the number of starters has declined.

For further information please contact Roy Gregor, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT, telephone 031-334 0303, ext 289.

Sales guide

London and provincial sales in progress include: Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Dickens and Jones, Regent Street, W1; Debenhams, all branches; Rayne, New Bond Street, W1; Aquasuctum, Regent Street, W1; Jaeger, Regent Street and branches; Barkers, Kensington; D. H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1; Scotch House, 84 and 191 Regent Street, W1; Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, SW1, 165 Regent Street, W1, and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow; Dingles, Plymouth; Moss Bros; Simpson, Piccadilly, W1; Country Casuals; Bally; Russell and Bromley.

Sales starting today include: British Home Stores; Habitat; London Bedding Centre, Sloane Street, SW1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1; Dickens and Jones, Richmond and Milton Keynes; Army and Navy, Victoria; Laura Ashley, all branches; Austin Reed, all branches; Allders of Croydon; Hornes, Woolworth; John Lewis (Jones Brothers and Pratts tomorrow).

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.66	1.56
Austria Sch	29.05	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.50	80.25
Canada $	1.85	1.77
Denmark Kr	14.90	14.15
Finland Mkk	8.75	8.35
France Fr	12.45	11.90
Germany DM	4.10	3.90
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hongkong $	11.40	10.80
Italy Lira	2485.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	349.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.61	4.38
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Esc	198.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Pta	232.50	222.00
Sweden Kr	12.09	11.44
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA $	1.48	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	218.00	206.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 341.9.

London: The *FT* Index closed 1.2 down last Friday at 775.9.

The papers

The Daily Nation (independent) of Nairobi comments on the Queen's Christmas message, saying that she called for 'modern technology to be harnessed to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries, a call it heartily endorses. Instead of narrowing, as expected, as the poor countries modernized their economies, the gap is widening. There have been talks about the need to change the world economic order, but they have remained just that – talks.

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Roads

London and South-east: M20: From A20 (junction 5/Maidstone West) to ¼ mile east of A249 (junction 7/Sheerness, Sittingbourne), major reconstruction, contraflow traffic on both carriageways, avoid if possible. **A3:** Clapham Road, Lambeth, sewer repairs, lane restrictions. Northbound bus lane closed. **A40:** Western Avenue between Horsenden Lane and Medway Parade, new layout, long delays.

Wales and West: A303: Wincanton-Ilminster, Somerset, at Holton, resurfacing, temporary lights, restrictions at Sparkford and resurfacing and temporary lights at Seavington and Ilminster. **A40:** Bancyfelin-Camarthen, Dyfed, surfacing, temporary lights, diversion, delays. **M5:** Junction 26 (Wellington) and 27 (Tiverton), resurfacing both carriageways.

North: A1: Felton bypass on river Coquet bridge, Northumberland, section closed, northbound only one lane open, temporary signals. **A628:** South Yorkshire. Improvement work to Thurlstone river bridge. Single lane traffic controlled by signals. **A66:** Widening and strengthening of bridge at Eden Lodge, North-west of Appleby. *Midlands: A617:* Roadworks at Bramley Vale, Derbyshire, South-east of Chesterfield, controlled by signals. **A6:** Belper, Derbyshire, signals, roadworks. **A61:** Signals controlling traffic at Clay Cross, Derbyshire.

Scotland: A95: ½ mile East of Crigellachie, Morayshire, land slip, single lane traffic with lights (24 hrs). **A803:** Road recontruction along Springburn Road, near Hawthorn Street, lane closures, delays. **A68:** North of Dalkeith, Glasgow, road subsidence, traffic over 30 cwt diverted, northbound, traffic single lane.

Information supplied by the AA.

Anniversaries

Births: **Woodrow Wilson**, 28th president of the USA, 1913-21, Staunton, Virginia, 1856; **Pio Baroja**, novelist, San Sebastian, Spain, 1872; **Sir Arthur Eddington**, Astronomer and physicist, Kendal, Cumbria, 1882. Deaths: **Thomas Babington Macaulay, Baron Macaulay**, statesman and historian, London, 1859; **George Gissing**, novelist, author of *New Grub Street*, St Jean de Luz, France, 1903; **Maurice Ravel**, composer, Paris, 1937.

Today is the Feast of The Holy Innocents. They were the children of Bethlehem who were massacred by Herod (Matthew 2, xvi).

Weather forecast

A frontal trough will be slow moving over northern Britain as pressure remains high in S. Most of England and Wales will be dry and bright at times.

6am to midnight

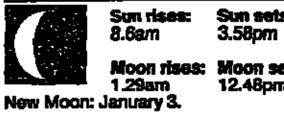
London, SE, Centrals, E, SW, NW, Central N England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales: Mainly dry, some drizzle and fog on hills, bright at times; wind SW, moderate or fresh; very mild, max temp 10 to 13C (50 to 55F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Rain at times; wind SW, moderate or fresh; very mild in places, max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Occasional showers, bright intervals; wind SW, fresh or strong; near normal temp, max 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Continuing changeable and becoming somewhat colder.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind SW or W fresh to strong, visibility moderate with fog patches, sea rough. **Irish Sea:** Wind SW strong occasionally gale, rain at times; sea rough or very rough.



Sun rises: 8.6am Sun sets: 3.58pm
Moon rises: 1.29am Moon sets: 12.48pm
New Moon: January 3.

Lighting-up time

London 4.28 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.38 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.14 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.26 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.56 pm to 7.51 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; d, drizzle; r, rain;

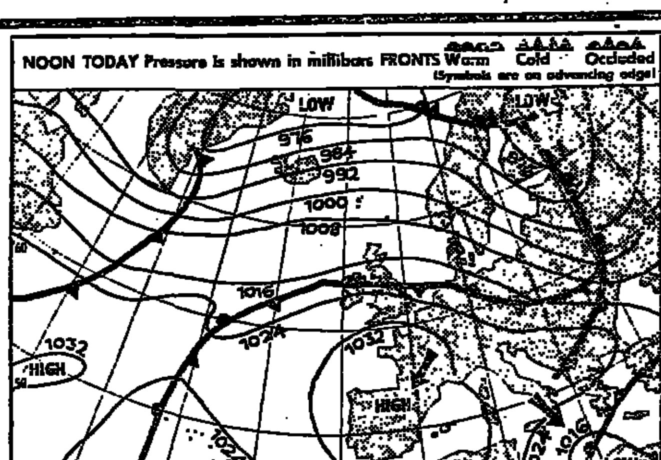
		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	11	52	Guernsey	d	10	50
Birmingham	c	12	54	Inverness	-	-	-
Blackpool	c	11	52	Jersey	c	10	50
Bristol	d	12	54	London	c	12	54
Cardiff	d	11	52	Manchester	c	13	55
Edinburgh	f	13	55	Newcastle	c	14	57
Glasgow	r	12	54	Ronaldsway	c	12	54

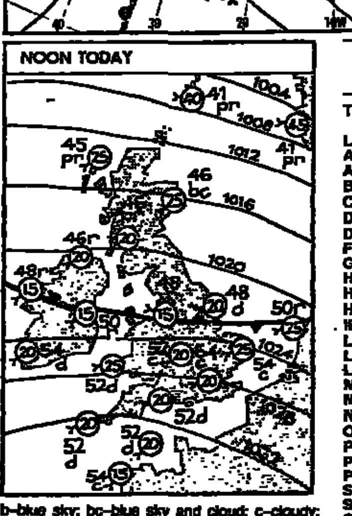
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F) Humidity: 6pm, 81 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm 1029.1 millibars, steady.

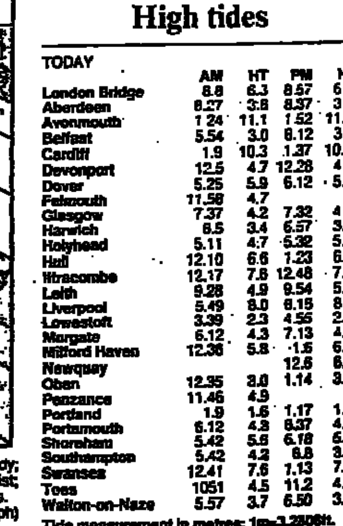
Highest and lowest

YESTERDAY: Highest day temp: St. Abb's Head, near Berwick 16C (61F); Lowest day max: Lerwick 9C(48F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath 1.1in; highest sunshine: Colwyn Bay 2.3hr.





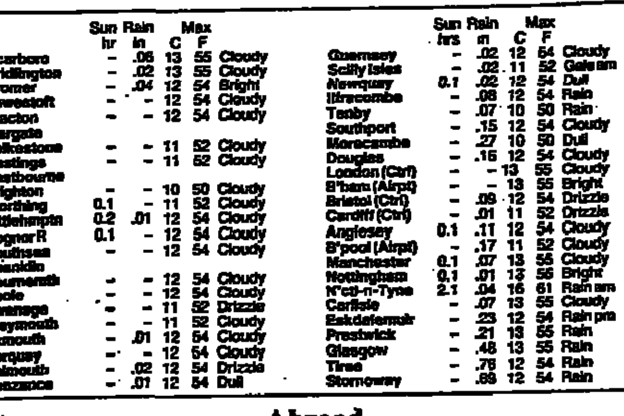
b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.



High tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.8	6.3	8.57	6.5
Aberdeen	8.27	3.8	8.37	3.8
Avonmouth	1.24	11.1	1.52	11.3
Belfast	5.54	3.0	6.12	3.4
Cardiff	1.9	10.3	1.37	10.5
Devonport	12.5	4.7	12.28	4.9
Dover	5.25	5.9	6.12	5.7
Falmouth	11.58	4.7		
Glasgow	7.37	4.2	7.32	4.5
Harwich	6.5	3.4	6.57	3.5
Holyhead	5.11	4.7	5.32	5.0
Hull	12.10	6.6	1.23	6.3
Ilfracombe	12.17	7.6	12.48	7.8
Leith	9.28	4.9	9.54	5.0
Liverpool	5.49	8.0	6.15	8.2
Lowestoft	3.39	2.3	4.55	2.2
Margate	6.12	4.3	7.13	4.2
Milford Haven	12.36	5.8	1.5	6.0
Newquay			12.6	6.1
Oban	12.35	3.0	1.14	3.3
Penzance	11.46	4.9		
Portland	1.9	1.6	1.17	1.7
Portsmouth	6.12	4.3	6.37	4.0
Shoreham	5.42	5.6	6.18	6.2
Southampton	5.42	4.2	6.8	3.9
Swansea	12.41	7.6	1.13	7.9
Tees	1051	4.5	11.2	4.7
Walton-on-Naze	5.57	3.7	6.50	3.7

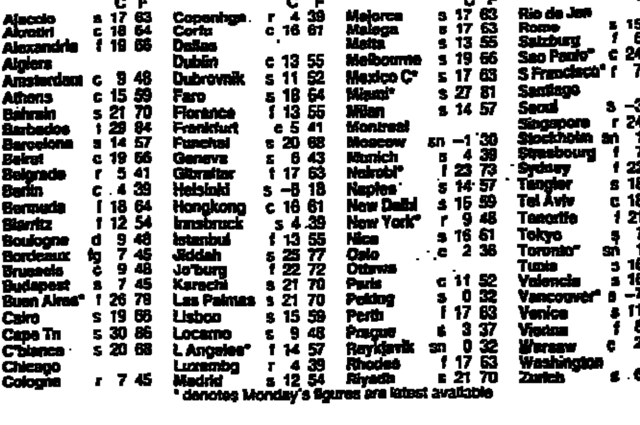
Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	–	.06	13	55	Cloudy
Bridlington	–	.02	13	55	Cloudy
Cromer	–	.04	12	54	Bright
Lowestoft	–	–	12	54	Cloudy
Clacton	–	–	12	54	Cloudy
Margate					
Folkestone	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Hastings	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Eastbourne					
Brighton	–	–	10	50	Cloudy
Worthing	0.1	–	11	52	Cloudy
Littlehmptn	0.2	.01	12	54	Cloudy
Bognor R	0.1	–	12	54	Cloudy
Southsea	–	–	12	54	Cloudy
Shanklin					
Bournemth	–	–	12	54	Cloudy
Poole	–	–	12	54	Cloudy
Swanage	–	–	11	52	Drizzle
Weymouth	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Exmouth	–	.01	12	54	Cloudy
Torquay	–	–	12	54	Cloudy
Falmouth	–	.02	12	54	Drizzle
Penzance	–	.01	12	54	Dull

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Guernsey	–	.02	12	54	Cloudy
Scilly Isles	–	.02	11	52	Gale am
Newquay	0.1	.02	12	54	Dull
Ilfracombe	–	.08	12	54	Rain
Tenby	–	.07	10	50	Rain
Southport	–	.15	12	54	Cloudy
Morecambe	–	.27	10	50	Dull
Douglas	–	.16	12	54	Cloudy
London (Ctrl)	–	–	13	55	Cloudy
B'ham (Airpt)	–	–	13	55	Bright
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	.09	12	54	Drizzle
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	.01	11	52	Drizzle
Anglesey	0.1	.11	12	54	Cloudy
B'pool (Airpt)	–	.17	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	0.1	.07	13	55	Cloudy
Nottingham	0.1	.01	13	55	Bright
N'cstl-n-Tyne	2.1	.04	16	61	Rain am
Carlisle	–	.07	13	55	Cloudy
Eskdalemuir	–	.23	12	54	Rain pm
Prestwick	–	.21	13	55	Rain
Glasgow	–	.48	13	55	Rain
Tiree	–	.76	12	54	Rain
Stornoway	–	.88	12	54	Rain



Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	17	63	Copenhgn	r	4	39	Majorca	s	17	63	Rio de Jan			
Akrotiri	c	18	64	Corfu	c	16	61	Malaga	s	17	63	Rome	s	15	59
Alexandria	f	19	66	Dallas				Malta	s	13	55	Salzburg	f	6	43
Algiers				Dublin	c	13	55	Melbourne	s	19	66	Sao Paulo*	c	24	75
Amsterdam	c	9	48	Dubrovnik	s	11	52	Mexico C*	s	17	63	S Francisco*	f	7	45
Athens	c	15	59	Faro	s	18	64	Miami*	s	27	81	Santiago			
Bahrain	s	21	70	Florence	f	13	55	Milan	s	14	57	Seoul	s	–3	27
Barbados	f	29	84	Frankfurt	c	5	41	Montreal				Singapore	r	24	75
Barcelona	s	14	57	Funchal	s	20	68	Moscow	sn	–1	30	Stockholm	sn	1	34
Beirut	c	19	66	Geneva	s	6	43	Munich	s	4	39	Strasbourg	f	7	45
Belgrade	r	5	41	Gibraltar	f	17	63	Nairobi*	f	23	73	Sydney	f	22	72
Berlin	c	4	39	Helsinki	s	–8	18	Naples	s	14	57	Tangier	s	18	64
Bermuda	f	18	64	Hongkong	c	16	61	New Delhi	s	15	59	Tel Aviv	c	18	64
Biarritz	f	12	54	Innsbruck	s	4	39	New York*	r	9	48	Tenerife	f	21	70
Boulogne	d	9	48	Istanbul	f	13	55	Nice	s	16	61	Tokyo	s	7	45
Bordeaux	fg	7	45	Jiddah	s	25	77	Oslo	c	2	36	Toronto*	sn	1	34
Brussels	c	9	48	Jo'burg	f	22	72	Ottawa				Tunis	s	16	61
Budapest	s	7	45	Karachi	s	21	70	Paris	c	11	52	Valencia	s	16	61
Buen Aires*	f	26	79	Las Palmas	s	21	70	Peking	s	0	32	Vancouver*	s	–7	19
Cairo	s	19	66	Lisbon	s	15	59	Perth	f	17	63	Venice	s	11	52
Cape Tn	s	30	86	Locarno	s	9	48	Prague	s	3	37	Vienna	f	6	43
C'blanca	s	20	68	L Angeles*	f	14	57	Reykjavik	sn	0	32	Warsaw	c	2	36
Chicago				Luxembg	r	4	39	Rhodes	f	17	63	Washington			
Cologne	r	7	45	Madrid	s	12	54	Riyadh	s	21	70	Zurich	s	6	43

* denotes Monday's figures are latest available